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THE INDIAN ARCHIVES

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THE UNITED NATIONS ARCHIVES

PURNENDU BASU

United Nations Archives

First Phase

UNLIKE IN most agencies, the organizers of the United Nations decided at the earliest point in the life of the Organization that there should be a United Nations Archives with custodial responsibility over the "permanent" records of the Organization. Accordingly, an Archives Unit operated in the United Nations Secretariat from the time of its establishment, but it was only a repository for the printed or mimeographed serial issuances called "Documents" *—a concept which was a carry over from the United Nations Conference on International Organization and the United Nations Preparatory Commission. Departmental records—correspondence and other files—did not come within the purview of the Archives. Practically speaking, at that early stage these records were too active to be placed in the Archives, but an interesting point is that they did not seem to

* For the Indian reader the term "Documents" used in this context requires some explanation. In the United Nations (and its associated bodies) the word "Documents" has a specific and rather restricted meaning. Not every piece of record is a Document. Only such papers are Documents as arise out of some matter under the consideration of one or other of the several United Nations organs (viz. the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Military Staff Committee, and the United Nations Secretariat), and which are officially reproduced by the Secretariat in either mimeographed or printed form for distribution among the delegations of member countries and other authorized bodies or individuals. Stated simply, the Documents in the United Nations are issued under different general symbols (A for the General Assembly, S for the Security Council, E for the Economic and Social Council, T for Trusteeship Council, AEC for the Atomic Energy Commission, MSC for the Military Staff Committee, and ST for the Secretariat) depending on the organ which considers the particular matter. The Documents bear subsidiary symbols to indicate more specifically the branch of the particular organ and the specific type of the Document—a somewhat complicated system into which I need not enter here.

be regarded then as the ultimate responsibility of the Archives. Besides the Documents, certain other materials—some of them records, others non-record reference materials or museum pieces—were also placed in the Archives.

The following list of the holdings of the Archives on April 1, 1947 will help to illustrate my point:

PROVENANCE	DESCRIPTION	VOLUME
United Nations, London	Newspaper files	2 cu. feet
U.S. State Department	San Francisco Conference Presentation Material; miscellaneous graphs, charts & posters	1 cu. foot
	Miscellaneous deposits (e.g. ballots)	2 cu. feet
Preparatory Commission	Records of the UNCIO, San Francisco, 1945	119 cu. feet
Preparatory Commission, London	Records of the Preparatory Commission, London, 1945-46	41 cu. feet
Documents Distribution Section (of the U.N.)	Official copies of U.N. Documents	141 cu. feet
	Drafts of U.N. Documents	37 cu. feet
Verbatim Reporting Section	Verbatim minutes of U.N. meetings	22 cu. feet
Central Registry	Treaty files	1 cu. foot
Economic Affairs Department	League of Nations Section files, Princeton Mission	22 cu. feet
Geneva Office	League of Nations Registry files	11 cu. feet
	League of Nations List of files	1 cu. foot
Headquarters Planning Commission	Permanent Hq and Hq Commission	26 cu. feet
Economic Affairs Department	Records of the Committee on UNRRA	1 cu. foot
Sound Recording Section	Sound recordings of U.N. meetings	36 cu. feet
	TOTAL	463 cubic feet

It will be noticed that the above list contains at least one item—Newspaper files—for which the more natural place should have been the Library, and another item—Presentation material, miscellaneous graphs, charts and posters—which belonged more to a museum than to an Archives. The largest bulk of the Archives holdings on April 1,

1947 consisted of San Francisco Documents (141 cubic feet), Preparatory Commission Documents (41 cubic feet) and United Nations Documents and their drafts (178 cubic feet).

The prevailing sentiment in the United Nations Secretariat in the earlier stages seems to have been that the records, during their currency, were to be handled by the Central Registry. Besides these registry files, however, there grew up large bodies of records in the operating offices themselves, accumulated mainly for convenience of reference, but incorporating much that should actually have been filed by the Registry. The operating offices were also considered to be the natural resting place for the records when they became non-current since, it was presumably argued, those offices were the ones most interested in those records. This perhaps explains the Secretary General's Bulletins Nos. 36 and 48, dated July 9 and September 20, 1946. The first of these Bulletins designated the Comptroller (financial head of the Secretariat) as the "custodian of United Nations contracts, leases, memoranda of understanding, etc., involving definite or contingent obligations of United Nations fund." The second Bulletin ruled that the Department of Legal Affairs "will have custody of (*a*) all international agreements, conventions and other documents of a legal nature to which the United Nations and States or other international organizations are parties ; (*b*) all international agreements, conventions and other documents of a legal nature which are concluded under the auspices of the United Nations (in particular agreements creating specialized agencies) ; (*c*) all other original legal documents entrusted for custody to the United Nations by governments, inter-governmental or non-governmental agencies." The Bulletin adds that any agency which prepared such a document should send the original to the Legal Department for custody, which Department would also have the authority to deliver certified copies of the document to those who wanted them. These instructions were issued before it was understood sufficiently that such a division of custodial authority between the Archives and the substantive departments was administratively undesirable. But, as will be apparent in the course of this essay, this was only a temporary phase and gradually the basic conditions that call for a true Archives centre brought about a change.

National Archives Proposal

Today, the Archives occupies a completely different position in the United Nations Secretariat. But before describing the United

Nations Archives as it is today, I should like to go back somewhat in point of time and give the reader an account of how the idea of a United Nations Archives was being conceived in the minds of some responsible people as early as the time when the Charter of the United Nations was being hammered out and signed at San Francisco. In October 1945, while the signatories to the Charter were in the process of filing their instruments of ratification, the National Archives of the United States brought out a paper entitled *Proposal for the Establishment of a United Nations Archives.* As I understand it, this paper was largely the work of Oliver W. Holmes of the United States National Archives, but I believe he had the active cooperation of his colleagues in the profession. This *Proposal* conceived of the United Nations Archives as the repository for the records of "international agencies that pass out of existence, for non-current records of continuing international agencies, or for other records of international interest and importance that cannot logically be placed in the permanent custody of any one national government." This was to be no mere archives of the United Nations only, but a true international archival agency. The paper points out the unsatisfactory state to which the records of many a past international organization have been reduced just because of the absence of such an international records repository. It gives among others the following instances. The records of the Inter-Allied Rhineland Commission, established after World War I, were eventually deposited in the archives of the French Foreign Office. At the time of World War II they were at the mercy of the German government and were not available for use by the United Nations authorities who would have found them of great value in planning for military government. The records of such bodies as the Inter-Allied Wheat Executive, the Inter-Allied Scientific Food Commission, and the Inter-Allied Maritime Transport Council seem to have disappeared altogether. These could have been of immense value to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agricultural Organization today. The lesson that is drawn from these instances is "that plans for the eventual custody of the records of international agencies should be made before those agencies go out of existence", and the paper suggests that the United Nations Archives could be made custodian of such records.

The National Archives *Proposal* then enumerates four categories of records which could be the responsibility of the international

archival repository. They are: (1) non-current records of the United Nations Organization and its various affiliated bodies, e.g. United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, Food and Agricultural Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations War Crimes Commission, etc.; (2) archives of international organizations which the United Nations displaces or absorbs in whole or in part, an outstanding instance being the archives of the League of Nations; (3) original records of other international organizations regardless of whether the United Nations inherits their functions, thus covering a multitude of temporary international bodies set up for specific tasks; and (4) records of international concern and importance. In this last category are included such materials as the military records of aggressor nations that have been defeated through the joint efforts of the United Nations, and political records which it is decided undesirable to leave in their place of origin, e.g. the Nazi Party records.

To anyone familiar with the functions of an archival agency will be apparent the tremendous responsibility contemplated for this proposed international archival agency. The value of its holdings would undoubtedly be almost unsurpassed from all points of view—as tools of administration of the United Nations or any international body of the future, as repositories of the evidence of individual and collective rights and liabilities, and as raw materials of history. It would deserve the best of equipment to preserve these unique records and the best of professional archivists to discharge the heavy responsibilities of ensuring their physical and moral defence and rendering service on them. This band of archivists would be on the constant look out for records that fall within any of the four categories described before and effect their transfer to the United Nations Archives. Here again the magnitude and difficulty of the work involved in negotiating the transfers and effecting the final orderly retirement of the records will be apparent to anyone who has performed these tasks in national archives. Only, in the case of the international archives the discretion, tact, patience and advocacy required would be multiplied perhaps a hundredfold if not more. The archivists of the international archives would also be required to plan and carry out a steady programme of appraisal of accessioned as well as non-accessioned records ("records in the making") and disposal of valueless material from among the vast quantities of records involved in order to economize on space, which in any case is limited, and to make the

cream of the material easier of access and use. Along with the work of ensuring a regular and orderly retirement of the records, elimination of valueless materials, and the physical and moral defence of the records, the archivists would simultaneously undertake the preparation of necessary guides to the records and would devise ways and means of servicing them so that the fullest legitimate use is made of them.

Change of Orientation

The *Proposal,* in addition to the above functions for the United Nations Archives suggests that this agency could also serve as a centre of study of all kinds of archival problems and assume an advisory rôle to national or other archival agencies. Taken in its entirety, this was too big an idea to be practicable, and not unnaturally it could not be put into effect by the United Nations. Instead, an Archives Section was established first as a small unit in the Documents Service, later in the Library and finally as a service section in the Division of Communications and Records in the Department of Conference and General Services. The Archives had very limited functions and responsibilities to begin with as has been already mentioned. However, having started out as a storage for "Documents" and "Historic Items" (an euphemism perhaps for oddments for which no one else wanted to assume the responsibility), the United Nations Archives has in the last five years made appreciable progress towards becoming an archival agency in the real sense of the term. For this much of the credit is due to the first Archivist of the United Nations, Arvid Pardo. He realized very early that the Archives was not founded on sound principles and that, not being a professional archivist himself, he was not the right man to take it in hand. He therefore prevailed upon the Organization to find a proper archivist, and as a result of Mr. Pardo's efforts, Robert Claus, a comparatively young man with an excellent background of international relations as well as professional archival experience was appointed Chief of the United Nations Archives, a position Mr. Claus has held since October 1946.

The effects of this change were soon apparent. The Secretary General's Bulletin No. 63, which was issued on March 28, 1947, formally states that the "Archives Section. . . . . shall be ultimately responsible for the keeping of the permanent records of the United Nations." Being conscious of the fog that generally envelops the meaning of the term "records", the drafters of this Bulletin very

rightly took pains to define what was meant by that term. It says: "When used in this Bulletin the term 'records' includes books, papers, maps, still photographs, motion picture films, sound records, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by the United Nations in connection with the transaction of its business and preserved as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the United Nations or because of the informational value contained therein. Library or museum material made or acquired and preserved solely for reference or exhibition purposes, extra copies of documents preserved only for convenience of reference, and stocks of publications, processed documents, and such other materials as may be mutually agreed with the Archivist are not included within the definition of the word 'records'."

It may be stated at the outset that sound as are the principles laid down above, in practice they have been occasionally deviated from in the United Nations. The Bulletin went on to describe more specifically the functions of the Archives Section. It made it clear without equivocation that the Archives was the proper place for all non-current records including "contracts, leases and other agreements involving obligations of United Nations funds", and "treaties, international agreements, conventions and other documents of a legal nature", materials hitherto kept in other custody. The Archives Section was made "responsible for making records in its custody available for use by members of the Secretariat, the staffs of Delegations and other interested persons." The Archivist was authorized to provide certified true copies of any records in his custody for legitimate use. He was also entrusted with the task of establishing liaison with other archivists and archival agencies "for the purpose of collecting information on records of international agencies, or related research materials, and on methods of archives administration, as well as for the purpose of obtaining documents and records essential to the Archives of the United Nations."

In addition to the above, the Bulletin gave the Archivist of the United Nations sufficiently wide powers which, if exercised judiciously, could probably achieve for the Archives its proper place in the Administration and help it develop a well-integrated archival policy and programme. However, by a revision of this Bulletin a little over a year later, the original set up was watered down to a material degree. In the Secretary General's Bulletin No. 63/Rev. 1,

dated July 14, 1948, which is effective to date, the following paragraphs were deleted:

"Departments and Services of the United Nations shall:

"1. Keep the Archivist informed as to what records are maintained in their departments, particularly where their functions require the maintenance of records as 'working tools': this is to ensure that the Archives may serve as a central source of information on United Nations records;

"2. afford the Archivist or his representative full facilities for surveying their records......

"The Archives of the United Nations shall establish and maintain liaison with archivists in all offices of the United Nations and with competent officials of Headquarters in order to:

"1. advise, upon request, on methods of current records management in order to facilitate periodic elimination of worthless materials and transfer of non-current records to Archives;

"2. effect, with the consent of appropriate officials, the transfer to Archives or the destruction of records no longer needed for current use;

"3. ascertain the needs of the various offices for information from the Archives and draw up plans for effectively providing that information."

The revised Bulletin also shifted the authority for approving destruction of any records from the Archivist to the Chief of Communications and Records Division without making any statutory provision for advisory function of the Archivist in the matter.

Present Position

In accordance with the policy described above, the United Nations Archives is the official repository of *most* of the non-current records of the different offices of the United Nations Secretariat and their operating offices. It has not yet been possible to effect the transfer of *all* non-current records to the Archives and the reason for this is that as yet an entirely satisfactory transfer procedure has not been worked out. A thorough survey, in conjunction with the Archives, of the records of the various offices is an essential requirement towards evolving a satisfactory transfer procedure. In the

United Nations, the Archives Section does not officially have the responsibility for making such surveys, although it has done so on several occasions at the request of particular offices. Nor has the Archivist the authority to effect the transfer of any body of records which are non-current but which the office creating them wishes to hold back. The Archivist can only suggest and advise, and although it is true that in most cases his advice is accepted and acted on, it is also true that there exist areas where the non-definition of authority has resulted in little or no action being taken towards the transfer of non-current materials to the Archives.

It will be apparent from the above that instead of progressively strengthening the position of the Archives which would have enabled it to develop as a dynamic organ of the administration, the revised Bulletin reduced it to a state with little scope for initiative waiting the pleasure of others with no advisory or policy-making functions even with regard to problems of records administration in the Organization. Such would indeed have been the position had the officials in the United Nations adhered strictly to the letter of the Bulletin. Fortunately that has not been the case, nor could it be so without rendering the Archives a literally dead file room with little practical utility. The Archives has succeeded, with no fanfare but fairly effectively, in maintaining liaison with various offices for the purpose of surveying and appraising their records, effecting by mutual agreement transfer of non-current records to the Archives, and disposing of valueless records. Advice has sometimes been sought from the Archives by the operating offices and the Archives has always willingly cooperated. In this way have been growing up fairly satisfactory working relationships between the administrative offices and the Archives.

Holdings and Programme

So much about the evolution of the United Nations Archives and its place in the United Nations administration. I shall now briefly describe its present holdings and its work programme. The first noteworthy thing is that the Archivist is no longer the official custodian of the United Nations master set of the "Documents." This is undoubtedly a swing in the other direction the wisdom or propriety of which may be questioned, for after all these documents are the basic records of the various organs of the United Nations. The master set of the Documents is now maintained by the Library. However,

the Archives keeps the draft of each Document until one year after its issue in printed or mimeographed form. The Archives also maintains a complete set of the Documents on microfilm. The verbatim records of the sessions of the United Nations Councils, their Commissions and Committees on paper and on sound discs are also in the Archives. In addition to the records of the United Nations itself, the Archives also houses the records of its preparatory agencies, namely, the United Nations Conference on International Organizations (UNCIO) which met at San Francisco from April 25 to June 26, 1945, and the United Nations Preparatory Commission which followed in London, from August 16 to December 23, 1945. The United Nations Archives does not have any records of the Yalta (February 1945) and the Dumbarton Oaks (August-October 1944) meetings nor of the earlier meetings between various Allied leaders, on the high seas (14 August 1941), at Washington (January 1942), and at Moscow (October 1943), where the idea of the United Nations Organization was first mooted and developed. The records of the United Nations Conference on International Organizations and the Preparatory Commission are confined mainly to the "Documents" issued by those agencies. The United Nations Archives also houses the records of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and some records of the League of Nations, agencies which have gone out of existence and whose residual functions as well as assets and liabilities have been inherited by the United Nations. Thus it would seem that some of the practical aspects of the National Archives *Proposal* have already been made effective. No arrangement has so far been made about the ultimate transfer to the United Nations Archives of the non-current records of existing international organizations like the Food and Agricultural Organization or the International Civil Aviation Organization. Probably there are too many practical difficulties in the way to such an arrangement and it would have been a little premature to consider such a thing at the moment. But the United Nations Archives is recognized to be the final repository of all non-current records of continuing value accumulated by the large number of Missions, Commissions and Committees set up by the United Nations for specific purposes in various parts of the world, and the permanent field offices of the United Nations, e.g. the Geneva Office of the United Nations and the Information Offices in many of the principal cities of the world.

The Archives occupies the whole of the nineteenth and part of the twentieth floor of the sky-scraper Secretariat building in down-

town New York on First Avenue between the 42nd and 48th Streets. The greater part of this area is fitted with open steel shelves on which the records are kept in cardboard containers of the type used in the National Archives at Washington, D.C. The arrangement of the records is made by Record Groups which, in the United Nations, represent the different administrative Departments of the Secretariat. In addition to these, there are Record Groups assigned to each of the other agencies whose records the Archives has in its custody, e.g. United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the League of Nations, the United Nations War Crimes Commission, the United Nations Appeal for Children, the United Nations Conference on International Organizations, the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations, the General Assembly, the United Nations Information Organization, Missions and Commissions, Permanent Headquarters Committee and Headquarters Commission, International Conferences outside the United Nations, Staff Organizations and Activities, the International Court of Justice, and Sound Recordings. There is one record group devoted to "Items of Historic Interest" which consists of museum pieces and it is expected that, with the establishment of a United Nations Museum, as is now proposed, the items in the group will be transferred to the museum. Record Group 1 (General Records of the United Nations) represents the records of all Departments of the Secretariat which were originally filed by the Registry, organized by it according to its numerical classification scheme, serviced by the Registry during their currency and ultimately transferred by it to the Archives. It will not be out of place to remind the Indian reader that the Departments and the offices under them do build up their own files which they themselves maintain besides those maintained in the Registry. To get at the complete documentation of any one department, therefore, it is necessary to go to the records in the Record Group assigned to that Department as well as to Record Group 1. Thus RG 32 and RG 1 together will contain all the non-current records of the Department of Legal Affairs; RGs 19 and 1 those of the Department of Conference and General Services; and so on. Each accessioned body of records is immediately assigned to one of the existing RGs provided it has the same provenance. If the newly accessioned records are from an agency which had not transferred any records before, a new RG number is assigned to them.

The arrangement of the records under the Record Groups is by the individual bureau, division, section and unit of the Department,

the files in these various sub-series being maintained in precisely the same order in which they were organized in the originating offices. The total number of RGs so far registered in the United Nations Archives is 34, all of which however, are not active. This is due to the amalgamation of some of the earlier groups or discontinuation in the Archives the custody of certain groups. The total bulk of records in the Archives at the time of writing (November 1951) is approximately 12,500 cubic feet.

The United Nations Archives performs the normal functions of all archival agencies, viz. accessioning, maintenance and servicing of records. Accessioning is done theoretically on the receipt of a transfer request from an office or the Registry, but as has been said before in practice the Archives has taken the initiative in the matter in a number of cases. Maintenance of the records has not so far presented any serious problems. On receipt, assignment of record group and checking as to the order of the records, they are boxed, labelled and placed on the shelves next to the earlier accessions in the same group. The building being air conditioned and reasonably dust and gas free, paper records and sound recordings (which are on metal discs covered with acetate) stay in a fairly satisfactory condition. But due to careless handling during their period of currency and the prevalent system of stapling with metal staplers, the files are often in a bad shape and bear many pieces of metal in direct contact with the paper. All this is injurious for the paper, and sooner or later the problem of rehabilitating the records will present itself. Possibly a properly equipped Unit will have to be added to the Section to take care of this work. At present there is no such unit in the Archives Section nor the necessary equipment. Microfilm records are kept in air conditioned cabinets.

Reference service is rendered by the Archives to the Departments of the Secretariat, staffs of the Delegations, outside people including research institutions and individual scholars. A Search Room is maintained on the 19th floor where the records can be consulted ; and there is a reader for reading records on microfilm and a listening booth for sound recordings. Files are also loaned out to Secretariat officials, while for others photographic reproductions of paper records, copies of microfilms and soundscriber dubbings of sound records are provided at cost. The number of service requests, of all kinds, amount on an average to between 350 and 450 every month. This is not a large number, but large enough considering the size of the Archives holdings. The reference requests usually are not such as involve

complicated research, but they sometimes do present a challenge to the staff which it is ever ready to face. It has not been possible so far to make the best use of the records, but a detailed programme of analysis of the holdings and preparation of Guides has been undertaken which will facilitate wider dissemination of more precise knowledge about the records in the Archives and thus open the way to their wider and better utilization.

Another major programme of the Archives is that of disposal of valueless material. Most of the earlier transfers to the Archives were made without much preliminary "weeding" and the same may be said of a great many of the transfers made presently. The records in the Archives, therefore, contain some that is not record material at all and others which merely duplicate the information contained in other series of records—in all, a sizeable body which does not contain sufficient administrative, legal, historical or other research values to warrant expenditure of time and equipment on maintaining them. The accessioned records are therefore being systematically analyzed by the Archives staff, the series identified, their informational contents weighed and compared with related records with a view to eliminating as much of the records as possible without loss to either administration or public weal or scholarship. The disposal procedure consists of the preparation of an inventory listing each series of records recommended to be destroyed with specific reasons for each recommendation. In the case of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration records, which constitute half of the total holdings of the United Nations Archives, the Archivist is the final authority to approve disposal. In the case of the Departmental records, the concurrence of responsible officials of the Departments concerned is obligatory. This is in the best tradition of archival practice.

With its limited functions and scope, the Archives necessarily has a modest staff, but it has a good international tone inasmuch as the following countries are represented: Canada, China, France, India, Norway, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

The Future

A word about the future. It is my feeling that despite the limitations under which it works, the United Nations Archives is making good progress in the right direction due mainly to a steady leadership and enthusiasm and hard work by the staff. Perhaps in

the days to come the dream of the drafters of the United States National Archives *Proposal* will come true, if not wholly, at least the practicable part of it. Already the United Nations Archives holds the records of several international organizations other than the United Nations itself. Perhaps the Archives Section in the Geneva Office of the United Nations will become another nucleus for such archives for that part of the world. It is already contemplated that the records of the now defunct International Refugee Organization will be deposited with the Geneva Archives. The problems relating to reference service faced by the United Nations Archives are more complicated than in national archives. The range of the subjects covered by United Nations records is more varied than the records of any national government and a detailed knowledge of international affairs becomes necessary for servicing the records satisfactorily. The possible clientèle also presents a greater variety, people used to varying standards of freedom in the matter of consulting records and security measures. The reconciliation between national and international interests in making available information from the records is another problem for the international archivist. The United Nations Archives also provides a meeting ground for professional archivists of different nations where they can exchange ideas and knowledge of practices of their national archives. Some of them undoubtedly will be in a position to improve their national systems. With the progress of the United Nations itself towards achieving its larger ideals, it will be the hope of every professional archivist that in the field of public administration the United Nations Archives will in time be able to provide a lead to other archival agencies in the world.

A NOTE ON THE KHALSA DURBAR RECORDS*

V. S. Suri

The Punjab Government Record Office, Simla

ON THE ANNEXATION of the Punjab in 1849, the British authorities took over a huge mass of official records of the Lahore Durbār. The Khālṣa Durbār Records, as these papers are known, relate to the various branches of administration under Maharaja Ranjit Singh and his successors. In themselves they form the only and most important original and extant governmental records of the Kingdom of Lahore. Among the collections of the state archives of the Punjab (India) these are obviously by far the most outstanding pre-British records.

This large body of the records of the Sikh Kingdom remained deposited in the Civil Secretariat (Anarkali's Tomb) Record Office at Lahore for over seventy years, until Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Lieutenant Governor of the province, directed this rich mine of historical materials to be explored. Prof. Sita Ram Kohli, a distinguished scholar of the province, was entrusted with the laborious task of their detailed examination and classification. After years of arduous labour a catalogue of the Khālṣa Durbār Records was compiled by Prof. Kohli in two volumes which were published by the Punjab Government in 1919 and 1927.[1] Thus a preliminary attempt was made at classification and arrangement of the confused mass of papers according to subjects and in a chronological order. Unfortunately the loose sheets still remained tied in unwieldy bundles and got mixed up through mishandling.

Consequent on the partitioning of the Civil Secretariat (Anarkali's Tomb) Record Office at Lahore, the Khālṣa Durbār Records were allotted to the Punjab (India) and were transferred to the newly organized Record Office at Simla. These papers are now being checked up, resolved into handy volumes and properly bound in order to ensure their preservation and facilitate their use for research.

An attempt has been made in the following paragraphs to describe briefly the volume, nature and historical significance of these valuable records.

The entire series of the records comprises 132 bundles and covers thirty-eight years of Sikh rule from *Sambat* 1868 to 1906 (*i.e.* 1811-

[1] This writer has frequently drawn information from these volumes for preparing this note.

1849 A.D.). They relate to the various branches of the Secretariat, civil and military, and may be grouped under the following four main heads:

1. *Daftar-i-Fauj,* relating to the army.
2. *Daftar-i-Māl,* relating to the general revenues.
3. *Daftar-i-Jāgīrāt,* relating to the Jagir accounts.
4. *Daftar-i-Tōshakhāna,* relating to royal wardrobe and the King's privy purse.

The records of the Military Department comprising 65 bundles fall into three sections:—

a. *Barāward-i-Taqsīm-i-Talab,* or the pay rolls of the registered strength of the army.
b. *Jama' Kharch,* or the papers relating to the credit and debit accounts of the Army Department.
c. *Chihra,* or the descriptive rolls of the enlisted men.

Each of the sections is further sub-divided into two parts—one relating to the *Fauj-i-Āīn,* or the regular army, organised and trained on European model, and the other dealing with the *Fauj-i-Sawārī,* or the irregular cavalry. The pay rolls of the regular army start with *Sambat* 1876 (1819 A.D.), and those of the irregular cavalry date from *Sambat* 1901 (1844 A.D.). The *Jama' Kharch* accounts of the two branches cover their respective periods.

Prior to the separation of the civil and military branches all the military records were kept together along with the records bearing on general revenues.

The papers contained in each bundle have been arranged and catalogued in their serial order, stating the date for each separate unit as also the total number of folios contained therein.

The papers relating to the *Māliyāt* (Revenue Department), *Jāgīrāt* (Jāgīrs) and *Tōshakhāna* (Royal Wardrobe and Privy purse) are grouped together as a separate class. The records of the various branches of administration, according to the original plan, are kept together in bundles, one for each official year. To provide against their getting mixed up or misplaced the papers belonging to different *Daftars* or departments are given specific titles or superscriptions at the top.

Māliyāt (Revenue Department) records comprise papers relating to:—

(i) *Arbābu'l-Māl* with its two branches—*Ṣaraf-i-awwal* (income from land) and *Ṣaraf-i-sānī* (income from minor sources);

(ii) *Arbābu'l-Tahwīl* with three branches—*Bayūtāt* (Imperial household), *Tahwīlāt* (Government funds), and *Zakhīrajāt* (stores, etc.) ;

(iii) *Taujīhāt* with two subdivisions of *Akhrājāt* (Imperial household expenditure) and *Muwājib* (pay department); and

(iv) *Roznāmcha,* or day book of receipts and disbursements, whether in cash or *hundies.*

These records cover the years from *Sambat* 1868 to 1906 (1811-1849 A.D.). Ordinarily there is one bundle for each year.

Jāgīrāt records relate to the reorganisation of the *ta'alluqās* or administrative units and Jāgīr accounts. This group contains five bundles of which two deal with the reorganisation of the *ta'alluqās,* the estimated revenues of the country, and the expenditure involved in the collection of the state dues. The other three pertain to the confiscation of old Jāgīrs and the grants of new ones under orders of the Governor-General-in-Council, dated March 1850.

The Jāgīrs were classed as (*i*) Military, granted to chiefs in lieu of military service, (*ii*) Civil, granted to State employees in civil departments, (*iii*) *Dharamārth* or religious endowments, and (*iv*) Miscellaneous, including the *rōzīna* or daily allowance to individuals of various descriptions, and the *inglīs* or pensions granted to widows and relations of deceased servants of government.

Tōshakhāna under Maharaja Ranjit Singh and his successors contained all the valuables (jewels, precious stones, gold and silver ornaments), *khil'at* pieces, important state papers (treaties, sanads, etc.), and sundry objects of value not in daily use.

As a result of a general reorganisation of the various departments of administration, the *Tōshakhāna* was divided into two sections—*Tōshakhāna Khāṣ* and *Tōshakhāna Bahlā.* The first represented the old or *Tōshakhāna* proper, while the second was created to serve as a small service treasury for cash and other valuables which were frequently requisitioned. *Tōshakhāna* accounts relate to *Zar-i-naqd* or cash received in the treasury, and *Zar-i-Jins* or simply *Jins,* the goods and precious wares kept therein. The goods comprised all sorts of furniture and curiosities (*e.g.* gold and silver saddles, trappings of horses and elephants, utensils made of precious metals, armlets, anklets studded with gems and precious stones, and pashmina cloth and art treasures of Kashmir).

The *Tōshakhāna Bahlā* or the State treasury was concerned with all money transactions and payments to functionaries and others who belonged to the royal household (purveyors, artisans and horse-dealers).

Out of five bundles of *Tōshakhāna* records only one deals with *Tōshakhāna Khāṣ*, while four relate to *Tōshakhāna Bahlā.* The records of the latter are almost continuous from *Sambat* 1873 to 1892 (1816-1835 A.D.). Among the *Tōshakhāna* papers are also found accounts of acquisitions after some outstanding conquests as also accounts of confiscations from dignitaries, who became victims of the Maharaja's suspicion or displeasure.

The voluminous *Khālṣa Durbār* Records roughly comprise about a quarter million loose sheets. The system of keeping the official records in the form of loose sheets, rather than bound volumes, seems to have been copied by the Sikh Durbār from the Mughals. It has, however, been found to be specially suitable to Indian climatic conditions which greatly contribute to the rapid deterioration of old papers on account of excessive heat and damp. This tradition continued in several Indian States even in the present century. The papers pertaining to many departments covering one year were grouped together in a single bundle at both ends of which artistically painted strong wooden boards were tightly tied with cotton cords. Some of the large bundles measure about three feet in depth and contain as many as 3,000 loose sheets.

The records are written on thick brown country-made paper usually described as "Siālkōtī" or "Kashmīrī" handmade material. As such it is very strong and exceptionally enduring. Although over one hundred years old, the records have stood very well the ravages of time and serious mishandling. The collection as a whole is in a fairly good state of preservation, only a fraction of it being found to be soiled or pest-affected.

The individual papers in the series are of a uniform size measuring 5″ × 7½″. They are written in a black soot ink in the free Persian *Shikasta* style which requires considerable skill to read them. On the right hand top corner of the obverse of every sheet is an impression of a small seal to authenticate the document. The superscription on the top of every page indicates the subject of the record under the name of the person-in-charge of the respective department, and two or three more lines below it give the period of the entries and other relevant details. The *Bikramī Sambat* calendar year is invariably used for reckoning dates in the records. Thus the pay rolls and other

administrative records are arranged chronologically according to the successive months and years stated on the papers. A bundle is generally used for a whole brigade or division comprising several platoons and artillery units which are named after their Commanding Officer (under some General-in-charge of the whole brigade or division). The papers relating to each platoon or *Tōpkhāna* (artillery unit) are further sub-divided into sections according to the period for which payments are made. The year generally falls into five parts for the disbursement of the pay of the personnel.

To preserve these valuable records and to facilitate their handling by research students, the loose sheets are being repaired and resolved into handy volumes. Over a thousand volumes have already been prepared. As they form the basic and most important raw material for the study of the government of Lahore before the annexation by the British, their historical importance can hardly be exaggerated. It is expected that the facilities provided by the State Government at their Record Office will help research students interested in the history of the Lahore Durbār.

TWO EARLY LETTERS OF JONATHAN DUNCAN THE ELDER*

ALBERT E. J. HOLLAENDER

Guildhall Library, London

IN THE HISTORY of the English in India during the last decade of the 18th and the first of the 19th century, Jonathan Duncan the Elder (1756-1811), is chiefly remembered as the successive holder of important offices such as Resident and Superintendent of Benares—the first to combat successfully infanticide there—and, from 1795, Governor of Bombay, in which position he instituted the policy of recognising petty chieftains as sovereign princes. He may also be known as the friend and warm supporter of Major-General Arthur Wellesley, the later Field Marshal and Duke of Wellington, during the latter's campaign against Tippoo Sultan and the Marathas.[1] Very little indeed was hitherto known about his early career, particularly before his appointment to the superintendence of Benares in 1788, beyond the facts that he was born at Wardhouse, Forfarshire, and, having received a nomination to the East India Company's civil service, he reached Calcutta in 1772, and served for the next sixteen years in various subordinate capacities. That these years of apprenticeship to superior service were by no means easy and devoid of disappointments both professional and personal can be gathered from what is recorded in the two documents published, for the first time, below. They date from a period of corruption in the rank and file of officialdom, when numerous scandals were caused by the eager desire for gain by the Company's servants and their relatives and protégées, years during which Governor-General Warren Hastings in his fight against corruption, encountered bitter opposition not merely within his own Council but also from the Board of Directors.

The two letters form part of a collection of East India Company papers acquired by the Corporation of London for the Guildhall Library Muniment Room in 1949.[2] These papers consist of what appears to be a small portion of the business archives of John Michie,

*Communicated by Mr. Raymond Smith, Librarian and Curator, Corporation of London.

[1] See H. Morse Stephens in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. VI, 1908, p. 170.

[2] GLMR, MS. 5881.

wine merchant of 35, Craven Street, Strand, and of East India House, and one of the Directors of the Company and eventually its Deputy Chairman.[3] They cover the period c. 1760—c. 1800 and contain *inter alia* parts of John Michie's correspondence with his nephew Jonathan Duncan, further documents relating to ships, merchandize and armaments, intelligence reports and various papers relating to establishments, military and civil, and finance. Our researches as to the provenance of these papers led to the discovery that at some unspecified date during the early 19th century they must have been merged with the archives of Frederick Booth, Attorney, 3, Craven Street, who until about 1825 was vestry clerk of the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and acted as Michie's solicitor. The Booth muniments, or what survived of them, were, some few years ago, bought by D. M. Beach, second-hand bookseller of Salisbury, Wiltshire, when portions of the archives which had accumulated at the manor of Amesbury (West Amesbury House, near Salisbury) were dispersed. The section relating to Westminster and, more particularly, to St. Martin, was bought by Westminster Public Libraries for their Historical Department, whilst the Michie Papers were secured for the Guildhall Library.[4]

From Jonathan Duncan's letters to his uncle it would appear that John Michie was a rather powerful and influential member of the Board of Directors of the East India Company who knew how to make its interests his own. It is to be regretted that Michie's letters have not come down to us, or have, at any rate, not been located as yet. It seems that in return for the mere prospects of advancement and promotion in the Company's civil service held out by the 'strong man' of Leadenhall Street, Jonathan had to act as his uncle's representative in various business transactions, and to keep him informed by sending extensive, though not too frequent, reports. The fact that sixteen years elapsed between his first commission and the beginning of his superintendence of Benares, may serve as a proof that Michie tested his nephew's abilities very thoroughly. Yet, Jonathan continued on his way, doing—not always under pleasant circumstances—his various duties, observing and reporting. His letters show an open and inquiring mind and a highly developed sense of justice

[3] John Michie was elected and appointed high Sheriff of the County of Hertford on 1 February 1782. The *List of Sheriffs for England and Wales*—to 1831 (Public Record Office, Lists and Indices, No. IX, London, 1898, p. 65, col. 2) describes him as "of North Mimms, Esq.,". His death is recorded in the *European Magazine and London Review* for 1788 (p. 392 col. 2) as having occurred on 1 November 1788.

[4] Some of Michie's shrievalty papers, covering the period 1783-6, were recently transferred from the Guildhall Library to the Hertfordshire County Record Office.

and fairness. They are rendered more interesting by the insertion of small items of political and economic intelligence.

The first letter, dated Calcutta, 4th May, 1781, deals with his appointment to the office of "Preparer of Reports for the Revenue Department" after the abolition of the office of Superintendent of Khalsa, or Khalsa Records, a department which had been mainly concerned with the adjustment "of the various disputed and complex accounts that so often occur betwixt the native renters and officers of the Collections".[5] It also tells of his first contacts with Warren Hastings who procured further employment for him.

The second letter, dated Calcutta, 20th October, 1783, deals with Duncan's translation from English into Bengali of the large code of judicial regulations for the government of all provincial and native courts of *Diwani Adalat* which had been drawn up by Sir Elijah Impey.[6] This translation was an important and exacting piece of work which for many years proved beneficial in court practice.[7] Jonathan Duncan's letter is of great interest, as it furnishes a record of the neglect, even dereliction of duty prevailing among the intelligentsia of the Company's servants at that time.

In the text of the transcripts which follow, punctuation, use of capital letters and spellings have been modernized. The enclosures referred to in the letters, have, however, not been printed, as their significance has been made sufficiently clear in Duncan's reports. It remains to be emphasised that extracts of the entire correspondence such as is preserved in the Guildhall Library Muniment Room warrant careful editing. Their publication would form an interesting and valuable contribution towards a biography of one of the Company's most distinguished officers.

(1)

My dear Uncle,

Since I had last the pleasure of addressing you by Sir Jno. Forbes, under date the 16th of January last, I have received yours

[5] This office, abolished at the beginning of 1781, was towards the end of 1782, re-established under the name of Mazooly Dufter (*Mazuli-daftar*) and Jonathan Duncan placed in charge of it. Letter fram Governor and Council in their Revenue Department, dated 30th November, 1782. *Copy*. GLMR, MS. 5881, file 2.—Duncan was, at the same time, sent to Patna, to settle the arrears of Maharaja Kullyan Singh (Maharaja Kalyan Singh, *Naib Diwan*) or to dispossess him of his district. *Ibidem*.

[6] Sir Elijah Impey (1732-1809) was Chief Justice of Bengal 1774-1789, and a warm supporter of Warren Hastings.

[7] The order by Governor General and Council to Duncan to proceed with the translation is dated Fort William, 26th March, 1782. *Copy*.—The acknowledgement of the finished work, with the allowance of a gratuity of 15000 Sicca Rupees is dated Fort William, 8th April, 1783. *Copy*. GLMR, *l.c.*

of the 10th of May 1780, enclosing to me the 2nd paragraph which you had so kindly procured, the better to secure my promotion to the Khalsa, although before it arrived, the office was no more, having been formally abolished on the 9th of last February.[8]

Of the probability of this I had advised you, in my former letters that were written in the month of January, at a time when I could not but be a good deal fretted and alarmed at the bad prospect I had before me ; but I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that things have ultimately turned out much better than I expected, as you will see by the following particulars.

After it had been for some time publicly reported that the office of Superintendent of the Khalsa Records was to be abolished, Mr. Ducarel (though on no very cordial terms with the Governor) took an opportunity of asking him, if such a measure was really intended ; in the course of which, he assured me, that he suggested to him how very severely it would fall upon me, who had been so long waiting for the succession ; and that therefore, if the institution of the new committee to be established for the management of the revenue should, by having younger servants than himself appointed in it, oblige him (Mr. Ducarel) from the consideration of his rank in the service, to give up his office as deeming it incompatible for him to act under them, he saw no reason why I, a younger servant, might not succeed to and hold it with propriety ; and that as the office had in itself been always found to be useful and would still require to be kept up or at least to have something substituted in its stead, he would be (as he assured me he told the Governor) very willing to resign it in my favour, rather than it should be abolished and thereby both of us be set aside.

To all this the Governor answered simply that it should be so, which was the first glimpse of hope I received on the subject. The day following I communicated this intelligence to Mr. Wheler, and requested him to confirm the Governor in his good intentions ; but what he said to him concerning it, I never could rightly learn from him, though no doubt his interest must have been in my favour. Be this as it may, the Governor sent out for me to his garden the next morning and in the most polite and even kind manner told me (without ascribing what he did to the recommendation or suggestion of anyone) that as it was become necessary to abolish Mr. Ducarel's office, he had determined I should be no loser by it ; and then requir-

[8] This is also the date of Duncan's appointment to the office of "Preparer". Letter of appointment signed by G. Baugh, the Council's Secretary, *original*, GLMR, *l.c.*

ing of me the particulars of all the salary etc. I at that time received from my station, I gave him a fair account of it which he assured me I should have an equivalent for in the new arrangements and I accordingly received a few days afterwards a new nomination, or rather succeeded to the remains of Mr. Ducarel's old one, as you will see by the enclosed copy of my appointment, which entitles me to an inferior proportion of the commission on the revenue which by the new plan that you will find recorded on the revenue consultations of the 9th February 1781, is to be allowed to the new committee and their principal assistants; on the whole the Governor has kept his word with me very exactly, by fixing my present allowances as nearly as can be, at what they were before; but as I now consider myself at the head of an office, I do not so much regret the shock that deprived me of the one I had so long set my heart upon.

Since these last changes, I have become much better known to, and more employed by the Governor General than ever I was before, insomuch that he has since employed me in arranging several little matters for him, before he brings them on at the Board, and expresses on the whole his being very well pleased with me, of which you may judge, by the enclosed copy of the paragraph of the General letter that goes home by these ships, which mentions my appointment. The first part of it was as far as regards me personally, mostly written by myself, having an opportunity for that purpose, by being an assistant in the Secretary's office to the Revenue Department; and when the draft of the letter was sent to the Governor, who was then at Ghyretty, for his approval, he himself added the latter part what I have distinguished by inverted commas. On the whole I have grown to be on a very good footing with him and am now only afraid lest the Company should not be as well satisfied with him as I am, as he has emptied their Treasury, and even loaded them with a debt which, however unavoidable the wars that have occasioned it may have been, (of which I pretend not to judge) will not, I dare say, prove grateful tidings to the proprietors, or to the people of England in general.

The French fleet appeared a few months ago in the Bay of Bengal, but has rather unaccountably disappeared without attempting to do any mischief. The war with Hyder on the coast lingers, whilst he is in the meantime wasting and eating up the country. We have been more successful against the Marathas whom General Goddard[9] has repeatedly defeated to the southward in several late

[9] Thomas Goddard, Brigadier-General (d. 1783) commanded the Bengal contingent with the Bombay Army against Marathas, 1778-1781.

engagements, as has also Colonel Camac in the northern part of their dominions, having, whilst he was hard pressed by them and distressed for want of provisions, suddenly wheeled about, fallen on and taken from them all at once 13 pieces of cannon, some of which are those that were taken by them from the Bombay troops on their disgraceful expedition to take Poona, a conquest which General Goddard has, it is reported, at length effected, in consequence of which and our other various successes against them, the Marathas have, it is confidently asserted, at length sued for peace which is, we hear, on the point of being concluded with them, in which case we shall find no difficulty in drubbing Hyder Ali ; but all this is no better than report and not at all to be relied on.

I am really so hurried at present with the Company's business that my uncle Mr. Jonathan and Mr. and the Miss Bowmans will, I hope, excuse my not writing each of them separately by this opportunity, the more especially as I have written to Mr. Jonathan by the *Neptune* and as all I have to say to them is included in my present letter to you, of which I shall send a duplicate by the *Neptune* as she will sail in a very few days after the dispatch of the present ship the *Belmont*.

The *Dartmouth* and *Rockford* will sail from this about the month of September and by them I shall have the honour of addressing you again ; in the meantime I have nothing farther to add but that I am in good health, good spirits and perfectly satisfied with my situation and prospects provided the Company have their charter renewed and we be all continued in the service on the former footing ; but should alterations be made at home, and this country (as seems not improbable) fall into the hands of Government, my reliance for being employed under the new system must, my dear uncle, rest in such case upon you who are on the spot and to whom I alone owe and am indebted for the good fortune that has hitherto attended me.

With my compliments to all friends I remain

Your ever affectionate
and dutiful nephew
JONN. DUNCAN.

Calcutta, the 4th of May 1781.

John Michie, Esq.

P.S. It grieves me much to hear of Miss Bowmans having been out of order. I hope she is long since perfectly recovered. I shall certainly write both her and Miss Mary by the September despatch.

(2)

My dear Uncle,

Herewith I have the pleasure of enclosing a duplicate of my last which is of so late a date that I have nothing further to add concerning my health or ordinary affairs, and I shall therefore take this opportunity of mentioning to you a subject which, as it may come before you in the capacity of a Director and at the same time very intimately concerns me, you will, I hope, excuse my introducing to your notice.

You will probably have heard that Sir Elijah Impey did, when he was lately judge of the Sadar Diwani Adalat, establish a large code of Judicial Regulations for the government of all the provincial and native courts of Adalat throughout the provinces which code, it was determined, should be translated into the Persian and Bengal languages for the general information of the natives. But to make such a translation and of so large of (*sic*) work was, you may conceive, no very easy task ; and, accordingly those whose regular duty it would have been, avoided it, partly from incapacity and partly from a wish to avoid the labour. The Persian part was therefore thrown upon Mr. William Chambers, brother of Sir Robert Chambers,[10] one of our judges here, who very soon afterwards applied to know what the Board would allow him if he undertook the task, which he was not obliged to do from the line he was in, as he is not at all in the Company's service here, but was allowed to come round from Madras to act as Interpreter to the Supreme Court. On his application the Governor General and Council agreed to allow him 2000 Rs. per month, and soon afterwards, viz. on the 26th of March 1782, they resolved to request of me to undertake the Bengal translation, which I accordingly went upon (although I had hardly a moment's leisure from my official duties with which this business had no concern) and having completed it, I delivered it unto the Board soon after my return from Patna without having in the meantime been promised or having on my part solicited any reward, though I certainly depended that, as the cases were exactly similar, I should be equally well treated with Mr. Chambers. When my translation was delivered in, the Board began to recollect that Mr. C. had been all this time

[10] 1737-1803. Since 1774 a judge of the Supreme Court of Bengal, and Chief Justice 1789-1799.

drawing two thousand rupees a month and had not yet completed his work. They therefore called on him peremptorily for it, and stopped his allowances, though by this time he had drawn about 32,000 Rs. and would probably have continued the agreeable practice much longer had not my delivering in the Bengal translation awakened the Board's attention to his conduct, which he afterwards excused on account of other business etc., although it is well known to every member of the Board that his occupations were not nearly so many as mine, as indeed there are few if any, in the settlement that have such a load of official duty as I have. However, after all it became necessary to consider what reward I should have for my Bengal translation. The Board and especially the Governor allowed that I was equally entitled to the same retribution as Mr. C., but Mr. Hastings said that Mr. C. had not so much got as run away with the 32,000 Rs. he had drawn, since he had availed himself of the Board's forgetfulness to continue to draw on in silence; and that therefore, as they could not take upon them to give me so much, they determined to make me a gratuity of only fifteen thousand rupees, with their thanks, besides which it seems they thereby valued at the 16,000 Rs. of which I became a loser by this inequality in their favour. For your fuller information on this head I take the liberty to enclose you a copy of the Board's application to me to undertake this work with a copy of their letter of thanks on its completion[11] and a copy of that part of their general letter per this packet making mention of the business, in which you will see they endeavour to slur over the injustice they did me, not I believe from any ill-will they bear me, as on the contrary, I have reason to be well-satisfied with all of them, but rather perhaps from fear that their conduct in suffering Mr. C. to draw so much may be reprehended by their honourable masters in Leadenhall Street. And now to conclude, my object in all this representation which is strictly fact in every item, is to induce you, if possible, to support my interest in the Direction and thereby to procure me an equal reward with Mr. C. to which I am most clearly and evidently entitled by the common rules of parity. At the same time, I do not by any means wish that I should benefit by his loss, and therefore, if the one cannot be procured without the other, I give up the point, although it may, I think, be possible to order it so as that it may be recommended merely to this Government to make both our rewards equal, but of

[11] See note 7.

all this you, my dear Uncle are the best judge and I cheerfully submit the whole to your better discernment. My Bengal translation is at the printers ; when finished I will send a few copies to the Court of Directors to show them that they have had something for their money. I believe that the work will be exceedingly useful in this country as it will instruct the natives how to proceed in their suits and on what their several rights are thereby made to depend. For this purpose the Bengal translation will be infinitely more useful than the Persian, as for one man in Bengal who understands the latter there are hundreds who can speak and read only the former ; and this present translation of mine is, I believe, the first instance of a work of any magnitude being put from the English into that language which is understood here by but a very few indeed of the Company's servants, whereas there are many who now have some knowledge of the Persian.

There have been great apprehensions of late entertained here of a great impending scarcity of grain and there is, it seems, a real famine prevailing in the northern and western provinces of Hindustan ; but in the greatest part of Bengal we have had nearly as much rain as usual, and therefore, though there may prove a scarcity, it is, I think, impossible we should have anything like a famine, notwithstanding the great quantities of rice that have been exported to Madras, and the encouragement now held out to merchants to transport grain from Bengal into the country of our ally Asaf-ud-Daulah where, it seems, the scarcity is indeed very great. The Governor General and Council, with a view of preventing all monopolies of this article have lately established a Committee of Grain to watch over its equal transportation to wherever it may be wanted and to punish all forestallers etc. By these and some other orders they have issued, the prices have already fallen, nor do I imagine you need in England to be under any serious apprehensions for another famine in this country, as there is surely grain enough in the provinces to serve the inhabitants till the ensueing rainy season though, it will probably remain till then somewhat dearer than usual.

Mr. Stables desires me to mention to you, how happy he is that you have got again into the Direction in which, I need not add, that I heartily join him. He tells me that you were always known in the India House for an independent member which he spoke of as matter, I assure you, of no small praise, and as he has been a Director himself, he must be admitted to be a judge.

We hear that a peace is either concluded or on the point of being

so with Tippoo, the successor of Hyder Ali, so that we have now peace all over India. I have only to add that I remain,

My dear Uncle,
Your dutiful and affectionate nephew,
JONN. DUNCAN.

Calcutta, 20th October, 1783.

John Michie, Esq.

P.S. Mrs. Maitland has sent out her nephew Mr. Stewart, the son of my late friend Mr. Secretary Stewart, and I shall, of course, pay him all the civilities and show him all the kindness in my power in return for those I experienced from his father. But there is one thing which you alone can do for him, and on which Mrs. Maitland will, I dare say, apply to you. He was appointed a minor cadet here on the 12th November 1781 (as you will see by the enclosed extract of the record thereof) but the Board now say that he must have the Court of Directors' approbation before they can give him a commission. By your getting this signified, the lad would thereby become in some measure provided for, whereas till such is effected, he must remain here, doing little or nothing.

JONN. DUNCAN.

THE LANCASHIRE RECORD OFFICE

R. SHARPE FRANCE

County Archivist, Lancashire

IN THE past most, if not all, countries having any degree of civilization, have followed the practice of preserving archives, private as well as public. This custom had, of course, no cultural background, only the sternly practical one of business[1] necessity. In more recent times, however, another factor has come into being. There has developed—and all the signs indicate that it will continue to develop—an interest in the past; for its own sake as well as in accordance with the principle that the essence of civilization is man's ability to profit by man's experience. Even all the intelligent members of the community do not, at the moment, possess this appreciation of archives for their historical, as distinct from their business, value, although its growth during the last twenty-five years has been most marked. Archives therefore can be said to go through three stages, each of indeterminate length. The first stage is that in which they are still in active use for business purposes. This stage gradually runs through the period when it is felt that the archive may possibly be used in connexion with the purpose for which it was made until the time when it apparently ceases to have any such use. This is the time of greatest danger. More room is required for storage ; the price of or demand for waste paper rises steeply ; the creators of the archives cease to function—for these and other reasons archives are destroyed. If the third stage—when to even the most thoughtless the archives are really old and therefore of manifest interest—is reached, probably all is well.

Mention must of course be made of those ever present dangers, when archives are kept in their place of origin ; theft, fire, damp, mishandling, and "livestock" of various kinds. In England and Wales there has been for over a century statutory provision for the care and custody of Governments' own archives, but so far as local archives,—public, semi-public and private—are concerned, the position has long been one of confusion, and their survival has been the result of a mixture of chance and good luck with great care and appreciation.

[1] The word business is used in this article in the widest possible sense, certainly not the narrow one of "commercial".

A Royal Commission appointed in 1911 recommended the establishment in each county of a record office, to be staffed by people with the necessary qualifications and to be run on the same general lines as the Government's Public Record Office in London. For reasons which it is not necessary to pursue here no legislation followed upon the Royal Commission's report.

It happened, however, that the small rural county of Bedford had upon its County Council a brilliant scholar, the late Dr. G. H. Fowler, who was as learned in his hobby, English mediaeval history, as he was in his profession of hydrography. Dr. Fowler persuaded the Bedfordshire County Council quite voluntarily to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission and to establish what was in effect the first County Record Office. From that day more and more counties have followed suit, until now about three-quarters of them have done so.

As in any movement which springs from inspiration rather than direction there are differences in detail from one County Record Office to another, but all show the influence of Dr. Fowler on the movement.

Bearing in mind this local differentiation it might be of value to give some account of the Lancashire Record Office.

After being under consideration for some years the Office was finally opened in the spring of 1940 with a staff of one, one large strong-room and one small repair-room. The stock consisted of the very extensive archives of the Justices of the Peace who, until 1889, had been responsible for the administration of the whole of Lancashire except a small number of boroughs, as well as for carrying out the judicial functions which they still perform. Their archives in this county date back to 1583, few counties having older, and they relate to such varied matters as crime, poor relief, the upkeep of roads and bridges, taxation, licensing and registration of many kinds, and a host of other administrative activities.

Immediate steps were taken to bring into the Record Office the archives of a variety of superseded bodies, such as School Boards, Turnpike Trusts, Boards of Guardians of the Poor, Rural Sanitary Authorities and Highway Boards ; and application was made to the Master of the Rolls for recognition as a depository for manorial records and tithe awards. Extensive—and very successful—efforts were made to secure the co-operation of other local authorities and the ecclesiastical authorities, with the result that there came in such documents as the accounts of churchwardens, overseers of the poor, surveyors of

the highways and parish constables, as well as rate-books and charity papers; with the highly important registers of baptisms, marriages and burials.

In the first year of the Office's existence a County Records Committee was set up, consisting of members of the County Council together with representatives of Manchester and Liverpool Universities and other experienced people.

It was realized early that the growing collection of documents from official sources was of prime importance for the social, economic, genealogical and ecclesiastical history of all parts of the county. The next step was to obtain the co-operation of private people, who were invited to deposit their older documents in the Record Office on what is called "permanent loan", whereby they remain the property of their owner and can be recovered either as a whole or in part whenever required. Such "deposited documents" are cleaned, repaired where necessary, sorted, listed or calendared, and boxed; the owner receiving a copy of the calendar.

The response to these invitations has been almost embarrassing. Most of the great landowners of Lancashire have deposited their family muniments, many of the collections dating from the twelfth or thirteenth century, and some of them running to fifty thousand items. More recently the probate records for the greater part of the county —dating between 1500 and 1858—have come in, with the result that, in round figures there are now about two million documents in the Office.

The uses to which the Record Office are put fall broadly into two groups, which can be called practical and educational; though obviously they overlap considerably. More and more bodies and individuals are recognizing the value of having a great mass of documentary material readily available in one central place in the county. Local authorities make increasing demands in connexion with various aspects of current administration which require recourse to old documents or plans.

The assistance given to such authorities when they hold local historical exhibitions leads to the educational value of a record office. More and more teachers are recognizing the value of local materials as a basis for the teaching of history. Children are not well endowed with a sense of time and distance; so, as there are few aspects of national history which cannot be related to events in any given locality, it is often found that some local document—referring to

places and names which the children know—proves to be an excellent foundation for a history lesson.

In order to further this movement the Lancashire Record Office arranges special exhibitions, either in the Office or in a school, of documents selected according to the particular desires of the individual teacher. This basic idea is being extended in a variety of ways, such as lectures to teachers and other adult bodies.

As a general principle the resources of the Record Office are open to all without charge, which service extends to postal enquiries, of which there are many, from all parts of the world.

The ever-growing additions to the resources of the Office, with the ever-increasing demands upon the facilities it offers, has had the result that the Lancashire Record Office now consists of four staff-offices, a repair-room, a sorting-room, a public search-room and library, and ten air-conditioned strong-rooms.

THE DANISH EAST INDIA AND ASIATIC COMPANY RECORDS IN THE STATE ARCHIVES (RIGSARKIV) IN COPENHAGEN

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THE DANISH East India Trading Company was established on 16th March 1616, and the first trading expedition, led by Ove Gjedde, set sail from Denmark on 14th December 1618. It resulted in the establishment of the first Danish colony in Tranquebar.[1] A series of further expeditions followed, and on 12th April 1732 a new company, called the Asiatic Company, was formed and took over the Danish colonies and trade. In 1772 the company's privilege expired and the colonies were opened to free trade, while in 1777 the colonies themselves were taken over by the Danish crown. The company continued to trade for some time, mainly with imports of tea from China, until its final dissolution in 1843. The colonies were sold to England in 1845 for the sum of 1 million Danish Rixdaler.[2]

The following notes are based on a brief examination of the Asiatic material in the Danish State Archives in Copenhagen.[3]

Range.

(*a*) ca. 1620-1845.

(*b*) India, S. E. Asia, China.

Volume.

ca. 93 metres of shelf-space.

Condition.

The early documents are in a poor state, affected by heat, damp and termites.

The later documents are easily readable.

[1] The reports, log-books etc. of the expedition were published by F. Schlegel, *Sammlung zur Dänischen Geschichte*, Copenhagen, 1772-6. Much information will also be found in the autobiography of Jón Olafsson, an Icelandic musketeer who sailed with the expedition. See *The Life of the Icelander Jón Olafsson*, translated by Bertha S. Philpotts, 2 Vols., Hakluyt Society, 2nd Series, Vols. LIII and LXVIII, London, 1923 and 1932.

[2] For a brief general account of the Danish colonies in Asia *see* Kay Larsen, *De Dansk-ostindiske Koloniers Historie*, Copenhagen, 1907. An outline of the history of the Danish Company, and a brief description of its records, will be found in Holden Furber, *John Company at Work*, Cambridge, U.S.A., 1948.

[3] My thanks are due to the Archivist, Mr. Bro-Jrgensen for his courtesy and assistance.

Language.

Mainly Danish—some in Gothic hand.
There are many documents in Persian and in the vernaculars. These are translated—the earliest into Portuguese, the rest into Danish—but are filed separately from their translations, without cross-references.

Catalogue.

There is a summary card catalogue, listing only bundles or even sets of bundles, and bound volumes. Only one series is fully catalogued. (See below.)

Content and Classification.

The collection contains (*a*) the archives of the Company H.Q. in Copenhagen (*b*) the documents brought back from Asia at the time of the Danish withdrawal. The shelf-classification is as follows:

A. Copenhagen H.Q.
  1. Records of Directors' meetings and General meetings, and law and commission documents.
  2. Treasurers' and Accounts records.
  3. Ships.

B. Tranquebar Records.
  1. Government records.
  2. Law and Commission records.
  3. Accounts and Treasurers' records.
  4. Factory records.

C. Bengal.

D. Malabar Coast.

E. East Indian Colonies and stations outside Tranquebar and Bengal.

F. China.
  1. Business journals.
  2. Account Books.

The great bulk of the material consists of bound account-books, factory log-books, ships' log-books, 'report-books' etc. There are separate series for legal documents (i.e. administration of justice in the Danish controlled areas, native courts, etc.). Otherwise the most interesting part of the records seems to be that contained in B.1.—the archives of the Danish central authority in Tranquebar; that of the Company

until 1777, when the Royal Danish Government took over, thereafter the Royal Government records.

These run from 1620-1817 (the later documents in this series were left in India and taken over by the British. They are now in Madras).

There is a register of these documents, compiled in 1799 by Henning Engelhart, a Danish priest in Tranquebar. It covers the period 1620-1777.

Engelhart's list is divided as follows:

(*a*) European documents—dealings with Denmark (company and government) and with other European interests.

(*b*) Local documents—sub-divided regionally, as follows: Tranquebar, Tanjore, Carnatic, Golkunda, Bengal, East Coast (Nicobar, Achin, Pegu, Siam, Kedah, Johore, Cambodia, Manila), Maldive Islands, Ceylon, Mokka, Surat, Malabar Coast, Canton.

Within each section the documents are arranged chronologically. For documents after 1777 there is only the card catalogue. Government and company records are separate after this date.

As there are no separate subject categories, other than those already mentioned, it is difficult to say what type of material the records contain. Those I looked at are mainly commercial, with some political, military and other references. There is one file, dated 1787-1804, containing correspondence with the English and French on various matters—chiefly the protection of Danish persons and property.

The Records are fullest for the 18th century and are fairly full until ca. 1820.

Besides these records, the following Copenhagen Government series are also relevant:

1. Board of Commerce Archives—East India Series 1777-1848 (i.e. the period of Government interest in colonies). About 20 metres of shelf-space.[4]
2. Mission College Archives—(*a*) reports from East India Mission 1738-1808. 10 bundles. (*b*) Diaries and log-books of missions—about ½ metre in very poor condition. All these are unregistered.

[4] Printed catalogue in *Vejledende Arkivregistratur* II. Copenhagen. 1892. pp. 330-333.

A CONTRIBUTION OF BELGIANS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSAL DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION*

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The Common Divisions

THE ADAPTATION of Dewey's "Decimal Classification" for the classification of Bibliography and Documentation is the work of two Belgians, Paul Otlet and Henry La Fontaine, founders of the International Office of Bibliography.

Dewey's system of classification was discovered by them only a few weeks before the first International Conference of Bibliography in 1895, but in that short space of time they indexed according to the new system the 400,000 bibliographical slips which they had edited since the beginning of their collaboration in 1892.

One of the results of the conference was to demonstrate the interest of specialists in a method of ingenious and simple classification as also the value of the method, independently of its utility, in putting in order the collections in the process of accumulation at Brussels.

Otlet and La Fontaine set themselves to study the system with a view to making it applicable to fields beyond those covered by Dewey upto that time. Out of their efforts were born the common divisions of the U. D. C. which permitted a considerable shortening of the systematic tables employed at the time and thereby enabled the introduction of many new ideas into it.

We shall examine here the method of arriving at these common divisions, basing ourselves on the original archives preserved by the Services of publication of the French editions of the Universal Decimal Classification.

The first publication devoted to the U. D. C. gives only 1,000 primary classes without any detail. These tables are the translation of the American edition and no common division appears in them. Thus the classical subdivision of signs of the zero class of each of the ten principal rubrics is noted. So also the divisions such as

* Translated from the original in French.

030, 040, 050, 060, 070, etc., which give a geographical subdivision made by means of principal signs.[1]

The third publication of the collection of the Office is intended to expand the geographical divisions. They are derived directly from the American version and are without any parenthesis. As no explanation is given for the usage, it must have been very difficult at that time to understand the juggling of the symbols which are not clearly differentiated from the ordinary divisions of the U. D. C.[2]

The sociology tables published in French in 1895 enlighten us on the trend of thought of the two European adaptors of the American system.[3]

The relation of the two signs is marked by a combination of two figures by a dot. Example: 300·572 social anthropology; but this system is not constant since the relation that exists between two countries is marked by a dash. Example: 327 (45—494) Italo-Swiss conflict. The geographical divisions are provided with parenthesis following the application of a new rule explained in the "Bulletin de l' Institut International de Bibliographie" (Bulletin of the International Institute of Bibliography), 1st year 1895-1896, p. 91.

The divisions of form reach their final shape when they are detached from the head-rubric and are preceded by a point. Example: 330:02 treatise on political economy.

In later times, that which will be only expressed by what we call analytical divisions, is figured by direct divisions but their significance is constant in each of the sub-divisions of the principal subject. Here also the doctrine is not fixed definitely, for we find a similar idea expressed by (05) to indicate the compared law in the rubric 34. Example: 347·62(05). Study of marriage in comparative law; 347·79(05). Study of comparative maritime law, etc.

The want of cohesion that existed in the solutions adopted during the first year of application of the U.D.C. to the collections in Brussels led Otlet to study the questions in a note dated 1896, entitled: "Des nombres classificateurs composés et des déterminants" (Composed Classifying Numbers and Determinatives). The whole problem is studied in 11 non-paginated leaves.

[1] 1895.—Decimal Classification. General tables of thousands of principal divisions. (French translation). Brussels, 25×16 cm, br. 14 p. (public No. 2 of the International Office of Bibliography).

[2] 1896.—Decimal Classification. General Geographical Tables. Brussels, 25×16 cm. br. 8 p. (Public No. 3).

[3] 1896.—Decimal Classification of Social Sciences and Law. Methodical Table in French, and Alphabetical Index in French, English and German (enlarged edition). Brussels, 25×16 cm. br. 80 p. (Public No. 4).

The fundamental idea is that when a decimal sign is specified by a "crossed division' (division croisée), it is determined (déterminé). This expression will qualify henceforward the common divisions.

Otlet distinguishes: (1st) the geographical divisions, symbolised by the parenthesis: (81) signifies Brazil; (2nd) the determinative of relation symbolized by a colon (:)....; (3rd) that of the language, marked by the parenthesis of zero: (04) French language, the signs coming from the division 4 Philology; (4th) the determinative of time that is characterised by using the figure 1 in the parenthesis, example: (13) antiquity; 509(13) history of sciences during antiquity.

This first series of determinatives form the class of "general determinatives" (déterminants généraux); there is a class of "special determinatives" (déterminants spéciaux), the usage of which is limited to one or the other special class of the U.D.C. They are used to mark the form of works and are then named "determinatives of form" (déterminants de forme), for instance: ....03 Encyclopaedia and ....09 history of....; the "categorical signs" are subdivisions that recur periodically within the same branch of classification" (P. Otlet, cited note). It is proper to utilise .0... or .00... for these indices, according as there is danger of collision with the signs of form or not. The "determinative of the proper name" which terminates this first list confines itself to introducing the name into the index of classification so as to avoid one of the grave defects of Dewey which is to attribute signs to persons clearly designated.

A second note, dated 1896, examines in detail the categorical signs. It brings out clearly how important it is to use for those signs, a division borrowed from a principal rubric of tables and to reserve the division of head of the classes for synthetic or abstract general studies as for instance the classes 41, 581, 591, etc. The aim of Otlet is to make provision for the future and to obtain a sort of symmetry among the rubrics. A long note of 14 pages proposes a complete codification of "formal signs" (indices formels), also dated 1896 and encloses all the indices—which, enclosed in parenthesis—will constitute the present day divisions.

A very interesting document is a cardboard bearing the date 1897. On its right side (recto) is to be found the handwriting of Otlet; on the reverse of it two slips have been pasted bearing notations in the hand of La Fontaine. This document is manifestly an aide memoire of discussion of the two theorists. It consists only of exempli-

fying indices under a title in the hand of Otlet: "Determinatives: specimen of varied forms according to which they can be written".

La Fontaine illustrates his view by noting diverse ways of indicating relation between two numbers:

31: 617·14: 617·018 (44)

31—617·14—617·018—(44)

31 × 617·14 × 617·018 × (44)

31 × 617·14 × 617·018 × (44)

[·14 × ·27]	·14 : ·27
(·14 : 27)	·14 & ·27
(·14 : ·27)	·14 & 27

Otlet thinks of 44 combinations, but what stands out is the symbol of: The apostrophe also plays a certain part, example: 63[31'0163. We find again in another document: "Note on the Classifying Numbers and the Determinatives", undated but which could be put somewhere around June 1896, if we consider that its editor (Otlet ?, the corrections are in his hand) has cited in one of the examples the date of the day of editing: 12th June 1896. The apostrophe is used there for the signs which are "divided as" another; example: Physiology of Lichens: 58·91' 11 instead of 58·91: 5811. This note lays down the basis of the notation of the time by direct use of the dates. Each date is placed between parenthesis and preceded by a cross, example: (+0885·12·06)=the sixth December of the year 885. This notation was not modified till today, except by the replacement of parenthesis by the inverted commas and the abandonment of the cross when no confusion is possible with a date anterior to the Christian era.

In 1898, a new orientation was given to the notation of indices which determine the form. Use was made of the sign=. The special table of form was abolished and the general signs placed after the sign=specified the form of the work indexed. Thus 77 photography, gave place to=77 document relating to—in the form of a photograph; 598·2=77 means: photographs of birds. The note describing this new system had not probably been sent to strangers for three copies corrected in the hand of Otlet are found pinned to the document.

The anxiety to curtail the signs expressed itself in 1898 by the elaboration of the theory for the use of dash to replace a part of the index, whose repetition it was desired to eliminate. The application of these principles is continued up to our days in the divisions such as 58, 59, 623, etc.

In February 1898, Paul Otlet signed a note which tended to introduce general numbers which would qualify three fundamental ideas. These signs would be placed between parenthesis after the principal general index: (1) the Subjects themselves; (2) the science of the Subject; (3) the special books on the Subject. The combination of these numbers with the sign represented: for the class 52 Astronomy:

52 (1) The celestial bodies themselves, their description;
52 (2) the science of celestial bodies or astronomy;
52 (3) the works of astronomy which have a name or a title which is particular to them, such as pictures of stars, etc.

Or for the class 615 Medicine:
615 (1) Medicines and their application;
615 (2) Therapeutics or the law of medicine;
615 (3) Books on medicine or the pharmacopœias.

In March 1898 the following signs were introduced into the U.D.C. They have been fixed as final and have been in use in all the editions from that date:

: To mark the relations between indices;
( ) To indicate places;
(0) To determine the forms;
.0 As analytical division;
— To abridge the indices which repeat themselves;
" " To frame the dates.

A note of Paul Otlet of the 27th October 1898 explains the use of + (plus).

The same year 1898, marked an important stage in the development of the U.D.C. All the rules were codified and printed in publication No. 20. The terminology was reexamined on that occasion, the term "determinative" gave place to "common subdivisions", the language received the characteristic sign =.

The table of analytical divisions by ·00 appears in publication No. 26: "Hand-book for the Use of the Bibliographical Repertory of Physical Sciences established according to the Decimal Classification" (Manuel pour l' usage du Répertoire Bibliographique des Sciences Physiques établi d' après la Classification décimale). All the divisions already have the signification which continue till today; the indices 008 and 009 have not been ascribed yet. Normally the

notation of analytical divisions is made by adding of a dot before the two zeros ; the special table of these signs, however, enumerates the indices without the addition of any sign ; the point which actually separates the first three numbers is also omitted. Example: 0023 constitutive elements of the Subject. Produce entering into the structure.

These general explanations enable us to understand the implication of these anomalies. In some cases the analytical divisions are combined with the principal divisions by means of a point, in others it is expedient to use a dash when they become "branch-lines by soldering". The application of the latter form is, however, not very clear and was soon abandoned to avoid errors.

It can be said that between 1895 and 1898 all the general principles of the Universal Decimal Classification were fixed by Otlet and La Fontaine. In 1896 they elaborated the first "Rules for the Development of the Decimal Classification"[4] which were in use for approximately 30 years—upto the time of the foundation of the International Commission (Commission Internationale de la C.U.D.)—as a basis for the efforts of the collaborators who, all the world over, contribute to the development of the tables of the Universal Decimal Classification.

[4] 1896.—Brussels. International Institute of Bibliography 25×17 cm., 13 p. (public No. 34).

THE ECOLE DES CHARTES*

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IN 1807, in the midst of his campaign in Prussia, Napoleon Bonaparte stopped to meditate on the plight of historical studies. He wrote of the "lost art of distinguishing original source materials from the work of secondary commentators, good and bad". He wanted to found a school of history to revive this art. Bibliography was also to be taught, so that the "young man should not spend months lost in a maze of inadequate or unreliable reading, but instead would be directed to better books, and would thus acquire better information more easily and more quickly". Unfortunately this dream of Napoleon was not to be fulfilled until fifteen years later, just before the Emperor's death at St. Helena, and then by the order of a ruling Bourbon king.

The great libraries and archives of France are depositories of the culture and learning of the past, rather than reference centres of a type more familiar to Americans. They are the heirs of those medieval monasteries whose monks devoted themselves to the preservation and study of manuscripts. The curators of such collections require a kind of training not needed by those whose work leads them into a modern field and to recently printed books. They must have facility, not just a "reading knowledge," of the Latin and French languages of the middle ages, no small order, since both languages were constantly changing. For some work, additional languages are necessary. And still more complicated than the language problem is that of the hand-

* The facts in this study and all of the quotations have been taken from the following works:

Maurice Prou, *Livre du centenaire,* 1821-1921, 2 vol. Paris, 1921.

Ecole des Chartes, *Centenaire de la réorganisation de l'Ecole des Chartes. Compte rendu de la cérémonie du 17 mai,* 1947. Paris, 1947.

Ecole des Chartes, *Notice sur l'Ecole des Chartes.* 10th ed. Paris, 1947.

G. Hanotaux, "Le Centenaire de l'Ecole des Chartes," in *Revue des Deux Mondes,* Feb. 15, 1921, p. 788.

C. Jullian, "L'Ecole des Chartes dans notre histoire nationale" in *Revue de Paris,* Aug. 1, 1927, p. 481.

The writer is grateful for the generosity of a number of French scholars who took time to discuss various aspects of this paper with her. Some of the opinions quoted have come from them, but it was thought best to avoid direct quotation. These scholars include Professors Ferdinand Lot and Robert Fawtier, Membres de l'Institut; Marcel Bouteron, Membre de l'Institut, retired director of the Bibliothèque de l'Institut; Charles Braibant, Directeur des Archives de France; and Guy Dubosc and Régine Pernoud, archivists at the Archives Nationales.

writing, the deciphering of which requires special training in paleography. The identification of much medieval material calls for a detailed knowledge of the history of legal and epistolary formulae and of much intricate detail about the history of France and her rulers.

The monks of the middle ages acquired these skills much as apprentices learned their trades, by working with older scholars. Some orders, such as the Benedictines, gained an enviable reputation for editing of manuscripts and for scholarly work based on a study of them. The Benedictines of Saint-Maur, established at Saint-Germain-des-Prés, in Paris, produced many famous scholars and supplied numerous librarians and keepers of manuscripts to the Court of France. The French Revolution emptied the monasteries of both scholars and their books, and manuscripts were distributed to centres in distant parts of France. Many valuable records were lost or deliberately destroyed. On one occasion a bonfire was made in the Place Clichy in Paris, and the flames consumed all the family archives and genealogical manuscripts which the authorities had been able to get into their hands. Some confiscated manuscripts found their way into the great libraries taken over by the State. For many years the only persons capable of handling them were former members of the clergy who survived the débâcle, some lay officials of the old royal collections, and a small number of self-taught scholars. The creation of the Institut de France by Napoleonic order furnished a stimulus for the study of the past through the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, but no school for the training of young scholars developed either out of the Institut itself or out of Napoleon's own plans for a school.

In 1821, the situation was called to the attention of Louis XVIII:

> In former days the studious Congregation of Saint-Maur devoted itself successfully to this branch of science [history]. Today . . . . these studies which are sustained neither by tradition nor by public education, and to which no one devotes himself with profit, are dying out completely.

The result was the royal decree of February 22, 1821, founding the first Ecole des Chartes.

Twelve students were to be appointed by the Minister of the Interior on the nomination of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. There were to be two professors, one from the manuscript

section of the Bibliothèque Royale (Nationale), and the other from the Archives Nationales. The course, which was to include one year in the Library and one in the Archives was to be a practical one. It had the somewhat vague objective "To read the various manuscripts and study the French dialects of the middle ages". This programme was not successful and died out after two years, for many reasons, but particularly because each professor, working independently, tended to duplicate the work of his colleague ; secondly because there were no examinations, no diploma, and no arrangements for employing people who completed the course.

The school was revived in 1830 and has been in existence ever since, on more or less the same basis as in 1830,—a course of three years planned carefully to include in succession the various techniques and disciplines necessary for work with medieval manuscripts. Like the first school, the new one was established in the Bibliothèque Royale and the Archives Nationales, but this time the first, or elementary year, was to be spent at the Archives and the last two years at the Bibliothèque Royale. The quarters were inadequate, notably at the Library, where students suffered from heat or cold, depending on the season, in their cramped quarters up under the roof.

In 1847 the Ecole des Chartes moved all its courses to the Archives. This beautiful building, once the home of the Soubise family, situated in the Marais, is one of the few magnificent residences which have been saved from decay in this formerly fashionable quarter. It is entered today from the spacious court opening on the rue des Francs-Bourgeois. Before the Soubise family acquired it and remodelled it in the eighteenth century, the house had been the Paris residence of the Guise family, who in turn had acquired it from the Clisson family which had possessed it since the fourteen hundreds. The turrets of the fourteenth century entrance are still to be seen today in the rue des Archives, to the left of the main building. The Ecole des Chartes was given quarters near this old entrance, which was now to become the entrance for the school. The classes were held in the Salle Ovale on the ground floor. The windows reach from floor to ceiling and the narrow wall space between them is covered with carved panelling. A hundred years ago there was a low circular enclosure within which the lecturer and students were seated close together. Outside this barrier auditors and visitors were allowed to listen to the classes without disturbing the busy *Chartistes* within. Through the windows one looks out on one of the beautiful courts of the palace. After visiting this room, even on a cold winter's day, one is led to

wonder what prompted Gabriel Hanotaux to write as he did in 1921 of his life there as a student years before, referring to:

> . . . les bâtiments lépreux de la rue des Francs-Bourgeois au fond de cette cour humide assombrie par les hauts murs de l'Hôtel de Soubise dans cette salle obscure si mal faite pour la lecture des manuscrits. . . .

In 1897 the school was moved to the Sorbonne, to a separate part of the building next to Richelieu's chapel. It is still there to-day. There are several classrooms and offices as well as the library. On the wall of one of the rooms, where the course in paleography is given, there is an enormous mural painting of the old monastery of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, where the predecessors of the modern *Chartistes* once lived and worked.

The Ecole des Chartes is one of a group of what the French today call the Grandes Ecoles. These are schools of university rank to which students are admitted by competitive examination, the successful candidates receiving a completely free education. In most of these schools, although not at the Ecole des Chartes, they get their living expenses as well. Among these Grandes Ecoles are the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris for men looking forward to a teaching career on the University level, and the Ecole Normale de Sèvres for women in the same category; the Ecole Polytechnique for engineers and officers of the technical branches of the army; St. Cyr for infantry and cavalry officers; the Naval School, the Agronomy Institute, a number of specialized engineering schools and a few others less well-known abroad. Students preparing to enter these schools prepare for the competitive entrance examinations in post-graduate classes in certain Paris lycées, where they spend at least one year. The examinations are very difficult and students rarely pass the first time, but return for another year of tutoring. Probably the most difficult of all, and therefore carrying the greatest prestige, are the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the Ecole des Chartes.

The examination for the Ecole des Chartes is open to candidates of French nationality who have completed the baccalaureate, the examination which terminates one's secondary school career and admits to the usual university courses. Frequently candidates have more than this, a university degree, or some work towards one. The examination includes:

Written examination

1. Translation from Latin without a dictionary

2. Latin essay without a dictionary
3. Essay in French on a subject assigned from French history, prior to 1500
4. Essay in French on a subject assigned from French history 1500-1815

Oral examination (for those who have passed the written examination)

1. "Explication d'un texte" (This is a meticulous interpretation, word by word, of a Latin passage)
2. Discussion of a question from each of the two periods of history listed above
3. An examination in the historical geography of France
4. An examination in German and one in English
5. Extra credit is given to candidates who present in addition one or more of the following languages: Classical Greek, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic.

The twenty candidates with the highest rating are admitted. This means in practice that two thirds to three fourths fail. It is to be remembered that all the candidates have had roughly the same preparation, and that all have spent at least one year in a post-graduate lycée to prepare. The examinations are therefore a good test of ability.

Students at the Ecole des Chartes have four to six classes weekly, each class lasting an hour and a half to two hours. They may also register for work at the Sorbonne if they have time. For courses requiring reading of manuscripts, sets of facsimiles are kept in the school library. The students know in advance which texts are to be covered in class, and they swarm in the library many hours each day to prepare for their classes. The classes combine recitation and discussion, but students are not graded on their recitations, although contrary to the usual custom in France, constant attendance and satisfactory participation are required for admission to the final examinations. The final grades each year depend entirely on the final examination. This is a general examination on all fields covered during the year, and a list is published in order of merit. Students who fail once may repeat the year, but only once in the course of their careers at the school. Those who do, lose their right to places on the merit list, and their names are published at the end in all subsequent lists. Very few fail, but some drop out.

The courses include:

First year: Paleography, Romance Philology, Bibliography, Library Service.

Second year: Diplomatics, History of French institutions, French archives, archives service, Primary sources in French history and literature.

Third year: History of Civil and Canon Law, Medieval archeology, Primary sources in French history and literature.

In the course of the work, each student selects a subject for a thesis which must be directly related to his work at the school. Sometimes this choice is made because of special interest in the topic. Occasionally students choose something on which they can work during vacations at home or in archives near their homes, for example the editing of the cartulary of a local monastery or the study of some phase of local history for which extensive original sources are available. The theses tend to emphasize the use of documents rather than the search for them, but most subjects require both processes. The theses demonstrate the student's ability to work with manuscripts in a non-contemporary language, and in this they are usually more difficult than the theses for the American doctor's degree, if the latter is based on American sources. On the other hand, the Ecole des Chartes theses are ordinarily much shorter and the field is more limited since there is a time limit, about six months after the last final examinations. There is an oral examination or "defence of the thesis". The grade on the thesis is combined with the grades obtained in all previous final examinations to determine the candidate's standing on the graduation list. The method by which this figure is reached is intricate and difficult to explain in terms of American practice, but it is fair to say that the thesis accounts for something over 80% of the grade, and the last final examination makes up most of the rest. Graduates have the title of "archiviste-paléographe" and are popularly known by the name which applied to them as students, *Chartistes*. Most of them have another diploma, that given in the competitive examinations for library positions, for which they prepare in some of their courses.

In addition to the regular students at the Ecole des Chartes, there are usually a number of persons who are admitted by special permission as "auditors". They now take no part in recitations or discussions and take no examinations, and they are not entitled to call themselves "élève de l'Ecole des Chartes". This group includes

students enrolled in the Sorbonne or the Institut Catholique, who wish to learn paleography or attend the lectures in advanced courses. The number of auditors varies from two to twenty or more. At present it is very high, because among the British and American veterans studying in France with government aid, there are a number of medievalists and a considerable number of clergy who expect to work in that field. From time to time, a few of these people have been admitted to the school as "élèves", and for the whole course. They must satisfy the entrance requirements, almost impossible for foreigners except the clergy, and they take examinations, receiving the degree of "archiviste-paléographe" on graduation. They are not considered as competing with the French students and their names do not appear on the merit lists. There are several such scholars in the United States at present, mostly Catholic clergy.

The first woman student was admitted in 1906. The French have always been more generous in these matters than either Americans or British, and their laws do not ordinarily exclude women. It is therefore rarely necessary that a fight be made to nullify a law before women can receive certain appointments. The first woman who applied was admitted. It has been difficult for women to prepare for the entrance examinations, however, since the girls' lycées taught less Latin than did the boys' schools. At least one boys' lycée always offered a post-graduate year for preparing the Chartes examinations, but no girls' lycée had enough demand for such a course. A very fine semi-private school for girls in Paris, the College de Sévigné, was founded to meet this need, and women who expect to enter the Ecole des Chartes still go there to prepare. It is particularly strong in Classics, unlike the girls' lycées, which tend to emphasize the more modern fields. Recently, girls have been allowed to attend the "Chartes" classes in the boys' lycées. At the present time, the women sometimes outnumber the men at the Ecole des Chartes, and many of them have won high places on the lists. A woman took first place on the graduation list last year, and won the Prix de Rome,—for research at the French School in Rome.

What becomes of the graduates? Many years ago, there were always among the *Chartistes* a few men of means, often the bearers of names famous in the world of scholarship, who, after graduation, became private scholars. Pierre Champion, who died during the war at an advanced age, is often spoken of with sorrow and nostalgia as the "last" of these. There are no private fortunes left in France which will permit this type of luxury. Today the *Chartistes* are all interested

in jobs. The most frequent procedure is to seek appointment as archivist in the provincial archives, in the Archives Nationales, or in the manuscript section of the Bibliothèque Nationale. These posts are reserved by law for *Chartistes,* but there are few vacancies, only three this year. While they do not enjoy exclusive rights in other libraries, their training makes them very much sought after for library posts, in the big state libraries such as Sainte-Geneviève and the Mazarine, and in the provincial libraries, particularly those of the universities. They are also preferred in many of the archives of the various government ministries in Paris. Some have immediately or eventually entered other fields. Count Bastard d'Estaing and Gabriel Hanotaux won brilliant reputations as diplomats, and Hanotaux, also well-known as an historian, became a member of the French Academy. A number have become famous as teachers of medieval history or literature, including Gaston Paris, Charles Bémont, Ferdinand Lot, Petit-Dutaillis, Abel Lefranc, Funck-Brentano, and Halphen, all at the University of Paris. One *Chartiste,* Alexandre Coville, was Rector of Clermont-Ferrand and director of higher education in the Ministiere de l'Instruction Publique. Many have gone into editorial work or journalism immediately after graduation. A few have positions with dealers in rare manuscripts and books. One *Chartiste* now owns and operates a long established firm which specializes in autographs and rare literary manuscripts. Naturally, many have returned after years in archives or in teaching, to positions in the Ecole des Chartes itself. This list, too long to give here, includes the entire staff of the school for almost a hundred and twenty years. The directors of the Archives Nationales during the same period, have come for the most part from among the former pupils of the school, as have also a large majority of the heads of departments and the directors of the Bibliothèque Nationale. The names of Charles-Victor Langlois of the Archives and Léopold Delisle and Henri Omont of the Bibliothèque Nationale stand out among hundreds in this category.

While the older generations of *Chartistes* view with alarm the extent to which the creation of a library diploma with more general training has offered successful competition to *Chartistes* seeking library posts, many younger graduates have expressed themselves as being satisfied with present opportunities and do not give the impression of fearing unemployment. A *Chartiste* is still a *Chartiste* in France, and he is spoken of with respect equalled only by that enjoyed by the *Normaliens.*

The great problem today, which worries everybody, is the effect

which war conditions have had on the careers of the graduates. A departmental archivist is an important civil servant and enjoys much local prestige. The standard procedure before the war was to make initial appointments to small, uncomplicated libraries, and to advance the best men to the larger, more important, and more difficult archives. Now all this is changed due to the housing crisis which has reached incredible proportions in France. The archivists were formerly given houses or apartments in the archives buildings, for housing is usually provided in France for the heads of schools, libraries, museums, and other important public institutions. Now all the state can do is to grant a rent allowance, except in the places where the old apartments are still available. The result is that the older, more experienced men will not accept new appointments because they know that they will have no roof over the heads of their families. This stops the normal promotion process, for instead of beginning at the bottom, a young, unmarried man is frequently the only possible candidate for an important post. This, in the opinion of the central administrative authorities, has resulted in a decline of the importance of such posts. As a result the morale of the archivists suffers seriously in a country like France where every civil servant in the professional categories thinks of himself as entitled to promotion at frequent intervals.

The war has had other results. Because of the destruction of some of the most interesting collections, there is no longer any inducement for scholars to take posts in places where they handle little except contemporary administrative documents. And finally, the enormous increase in the teaching load and the infinitesimal adjustments of salaries in the French schools have considerably decreased the number of elementary and secondary school teachers who once spent leisure hours in research in the local archives, where they became the friends and allies of the archivist. There are occasional exceptions. In one small town the elementary school teacher works in a lignite mine to eke out his pitifully small income for his family. He recently applied for permission to work in the archives at night. He is writing a history of the mine.

What have been the contributions of the Ecole des Chartes? Since the reorganization in 1830, the school has published a journal, the *Bibliothèque de l'Ecole des Chartes.* In 1921, on the occasion of the centennial of the school, the director, Maurice Prou, published a book containing a study entitled "L'oeuvre de l'Ecole" which he interpreted to mean the publications, especially the monographs, of

its graduates. This record covers 189 printed pages, largely lists. There is in addition a list, covering seventeen pages, of the literary and historical prizes won by former students. The nineteenth and twentieth century printed catalogues of the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Archives, and the remarkably valuable inventories and catalogues of the departmental archives are all the work of *Chartistes.* Prou's list includes hundreds of well-known standard works, to mention only two,—Langlois's part in Langlois and Seignobos, *Introduction à l'historie,* and Delisle, *Cabinet des Manuscrits de la Bibliothèque Impériale.*

Less tangible, but quite as extensive and important has been the influence through the work of those who have been trained at the school. The so-called "method of the *Chartiste*" is one of orderly arrangement and documentation. It has influenced scholarly writing in France, and has contributed to the clear and logical style in documentation for which the French have gained an enviable reputation, especially in the field of history. The classification and cataloguing of innumerable collections of documents have made accessible to scholars and officials what were once piles of unlabelled, disordered boxes. This achievement has been particularly significant in the case of the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other departmental collections. Many valuable documents have been saved for posterity by donors who were glad to present them to active and intelligent custodians. The accessibility of manuscript sources has encouraged the use of these sources in historical research and has placed historical writing on a very high level.

The Ecole des Chartes is not without its critics. Voices are heard from time to time accusing the school of inadequacy in fulfilling its purpose and of producing in our own day a disproportionately long list of undistinguished graduates. This is attributed to a variety of causes ranging from old fashioned conservatism to the practice of admitting women. The causes of the criticism are probably two in number, first the greater number of present-day training opportunities once found only at the Ecole des Chartes, thus dissipating the group of medievalists; second, the heavy burden of paper work and other aspects of present-day administration, which influences the amount of individual attention students get, as well as the amount of leisure for study among the graduates.

There is at the present time a difference of opinion among scholars and administrators, including *Chartistes,* as to the scope of the work today. Until a few years ago, it was the only school at which

archivists and librarians were trained. Today a great many competent librarians, some holding important administrative positions, were trained in the various universities in France. Their education is more general, and in the opinion of some, more adequate than that of the *Chartistes*. These people have university degrees, technical library training, and a diploma obtained by competitive examination. The Ecole des Chartes now includes a course of lectures in preparation for this diploma, which its students must now obtain if they wish to enter libraries rather than archives. The university training probably offers some advantage, since the examination does not include the elaborate techniques connected with the reading and analysis of documents, to which the Ecole des Chartes is devoted. The school is therefore criticized at times for not providing a more varied course. The present administration of the school has resisted efforts to enlarge the scope. In a speech made in 1947 on the occasion of an anniversary celebration, the present director said:

> Nous fûmes, nous restons une école d'érudition dans le domaine de l'histoire de France. Nous fûmes et demeurons des hommes d'études...... nous fûmes et demeurons principalement des médiévistes.....

It was also true, in former days, that medievalists, including those who entered teaching rather than archival work, were trained only at the Ecole des Chartes. The few distinguished scholars in this field who did not begin as *Chartistes* were likely to have attended as auditors, especially in the courses in paleography and diplomatics. Such eminent scholars as Christian Pfister, the Alsacian medievalist who returned to his native province as Rector of the University of Strasbourg after World War I, got their training in this way. During the past thirty years or more, the universities in the provinces, as well as the University of Paris, trained medievalists through the teaching and guidance of former *Chartistes* such as Ferdinand Lot in Paris, Halphen in Bordeaux and later Paris, and at Strasbourg under the leadership of Pfister, who had once listened from outside the barrier in the Hotel de Soubise. At the Sorbonne, Langlois had established a series of lectures on auxiliary sciences before the turn of the century. Joseph Bedier, a *normalien*, had profited by this training. The monopoly once firmly established in the Ecole des Chartes has disappeared. It is now more usual for one interested in medieval history or literature to plan a university education, leaving a higher proportion than formerly of people with more limited technical

interests at the Ecole des Chartes. This has inevitable results as far as impressions of distinction are concerned. One hears more about the brilliant lecturers and producers of monographs than one does about those who facilitate their work by providing excellent catalogues and scholarly editions of difficult manuscript sources. While the *Chartistes* cannot be accused of devoting their energies entirely to catalogues or minutiae, it is probably true that more and more of them tend to do this, if only because their positions require it. The university men, on the other hand, are forced by competition to emphasize other aspects.

Those who blame the lack of distinction on the advent of women take the debatable position that women succeed more easily than men of equal or superior ability in passing examinations, thereby winning a large number of the available twenty places each year. They do not themselves become distinguished, it is said, but have reduced the number of men who might have done so, had they been admitted. The women *Chartistes* have a very high record of achievement in the school. Some of them have done excellent research, "crowned by the Academy." Some have been prevented by marriage from competing for good appointments which family responsibilities have made impractical for them. The archives positions are not, like those in teaching, won by competitive examination. The women therefore sometimes suffer from the fact that when appointments are to be made, superficial qualifications may receive more weight in their case than in that of their male competitors. Public duties connected with some of the positions seem, in the minds of many, to call for men, regardless of technical qualifications. These factors have undoubtedly reduced the ratio of distinction for the women.

If it is true that the school's reputation for distinction is not what it was in the nineteenth century, the explanation is to be found in the conditions of modern life, rather than in the factors described above. It was once true that the scholar, whether he was an archivist or a university teacher, was expected to devote a large part of his time to his own research, which presumably would result in publication and in some cases, fame. The number of archivists in state positions in France today is still what it was under Louis Philippe. It would be impossible to estimate the expansion in document production which has come during the past century, with the typewriter, the mimeograph machine, and the telegraph. The archivist must provide for the enormous volume of useful and useless paper which comes to him from government offices. He must also worry about their preserva-

tion, a matter which gave him less concern when the documents arrived written in ink on good paper, or even parchment. All this takes time. In addition, he now has a telephone, which results in a vastly increased number of inquiries, invitations, visits, and unanticipated interruptions of all kinds. Like the university professor, the archivist now has to do his research at night or during hours which the administration does not claim. This is a different picture from that of a hundred years ago when Delisle produced his *Cabinet des Manuscrits* or even fifty, when Langlois managed to be so brilliantly prolific. Contemporary production of scholarly works has of necessity slowed down.

Unlike their monkish predecessors, *Chartistes* have not led cloistered lives, rather have they found satisfaction, as special custodians of the history of France, in taking part in events which we to-day might call "history in the making." There is an amusing account of the day in 1848, when the whole school decided to parade to the Hôtel de Ville, a quarter of a mile away, to congratulate the government on the reestablishment of a republic. One of the students composed a Latin oration on the theme "He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek." This was rejected in favour of one in French saluting the "culmination" of the historic struggle for liberty in France. In 1870-1872 both professors and students left for active service and some never returned. In 1914-1918, fifty-one *Chartistes* were killed in action. In one of the classrooms today, opposite the mural depicting Saint-Germain-des-Prés, marble tablets list the names of those who lost their lives in the last war, many of them "died in deportation." This is a grim reminder of the bravery of so many of the student generation during the Resistance.

It is interesting to note in Paris today, that although there is much talk of the need for government economies, there is never even a whispered suggestion that the country might get on without what in some quarters might be considered an expensive luxury. There will always be hope for a country in which everyone is proud of the Ecole des Chartes.

[Reprinted from 'The American Archivist', July 1950—By kind permission.]

A DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF THE RECORDS OF DANISH INTEREST IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA*

NOTE :—The documents listed below belong to the late Public Department of the Government at Fort William. This list is to be followed by those of records belonging to the late Foreign, Political and Secret Departments. As the documents in this inventory form a part of the records of the Governor General and Council at Fort William, the absence of the name of the sender or the address in any item of the list indicates that the letter was issued or received by the Fort William Council.

HOME PUBLIC BRANCH

Memorial, dated 20 November 1769, from the Chief of the Danish Settlement at Fredericksnagore requesting the Fort William Council's intercession with the *Nabob* for a renewal of their rights and privileges ; *Pub. Cons. 20 November 1769, no 2(a) ; 3 pp.*

Letter, dated 7 September 1771, from the President and Council at Fredericksnagore asking for a consignment of saltpetre ; *Pub. Cons. 9 September 1771, no B ; 1 p.*

Draft of letter, dated 9 September 1771, to Fredericksnagore promising to deliver the saltpetre as soon as the Patna factory sends in the supplies ; *Pub. Cons. 9 September 1771, no C ; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 9 May 1772, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore congratulating the Board on Warren Hastings' appointment to the station of President and Governor ; *Pub. Cons. 11 May 1772, no A ; 1 p.*

Copy of letter from Mr J. L. Fix, Chief of Serampore, complaining of 700 *bigas* of land in Aldee Serampore having been unjustly taken possession of by the French Company's *banian* named 'Kistna Schoudari' ; *Pub. Cons. 18 May 1772, no 1(a) ; 4 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 18 May 1772, to Mr William Lushington, Supervisor of Hooghly, desiring a copy of the decree connected with the above affair ; *Pub. Cons. 18 May 1772, no A ; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 22 May 1772, from Mr William Lushington, Supervisor of Hooghly, relative to the Danish Chief's demand for a piece of waste land ; *Pub. Cons. 25 May 1772, no 1(a) ; 3 pp.*

* An introductory note on "Records of Danish Interest in the National Archives of India" appeared in *The Indian Archives*, Vol. V, No. 1.

Draft of letter, dated 25 May 1772, to Mr William Lushington intimating that Mr George Bogle has been ordered to assist in the enquiry regarding the above demand; *Pub. Cons. 25 May 1772, no 2(a); 1 p.*

Letter, dated 22 October 1772, from the Danish Council at Fredericksnagore requesting delivery of their share of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 22 October 1772, no 6; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 28 August 1773, from the Danish Council at Fredericksnagore intimating the appointment of Mr Andrew Hiernoe to be the Chief and President of that Council *vice* Mr. Fix; *Pub. Cons. 2 September 1773, no 1; 1 p.*

Draft of letter, dated 2 September 1773, congratulating Mr Andrew Hiernoe on his appointment as Chief and President of Fredericksnagore Council; *Pub. Cons. 2 September 1773, no 2; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 5 October 1773, from the Danish Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore requesting for the delivery of annual supply of saltpetre and draft of letter, dated 14 October 1773, to the Chief of Fredericksnagore in reply; *Pub. Cons. 14 October 1773, nos 2-3; 2 pp.*

Draft of circular letter, dated 21 October 1773, to the Dutch, French and Danish settlements apprehending a scarcity of grain, and requesting the adoption of precautionary measures; *Pub. Cons. 21 October 1773, no 8; 2 pp.*

Draft of circular letter, dated 2 December 1773, intimating that the embargo on grain is to be taken off; *Pub. Cons. 2 December 1773, no 16; 2 pp.*

Draft of circular, dated 16 December 1773, similar to the above; *Pub. Cons. 16 December 1773, no 3; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 1 October 1774, from the Chief of Fredericksnagore soliciting the supply of 12,000 maunds of saltpetre for the cargoes of the Danish Company's ships and draft of reply, dated 10 October 1774, to the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, granting their request; *Pub. Cons. 10 October 1774, nos 3-4; 2 pp.*

Copy of letter, dated 24 October 1774, to the French, Dutch, Portuguese and Danish settlements in India, reporting the appointment of the Governor General and the new members of the Board; *Copies of Records obtained from India Office, 1774, pp. 153-54.*

Letter, dated 29 June 1775, from the Chief of Fredericksnagore to the Governor applying for 12,000 maunds of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 3 July 1775, no 1 (a); 1 p.*

Letter, dated 4 July 1775, from the Board of Trade reporting

that their Export Warehouse-Keeper has been directed to supply the Danish Chief 12,000 maunds of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 10 July 1775, no 23; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 4 August 1775, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore applying for the delivery of the saltpetre to Mr Hielte; *Pub. Cons. 10 August 1775, no 15; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 15 August 1776, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, applying for 8,000 maunds of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 19 August 1776, no 9; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 9 September 1776, from the Danish Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore asking that the saltpetre may be delivered to them in Calcutta instead of at Patna; *Pub. Cons. 23 September 1776, no 25; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 4 October 1776, from M. O. Bie at Fredericksnagore informing that he has been appointed Chief of the Danish possessions in Bengal; *Pub. Cons. 7 October 1776, no 9; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 7 October 1776, to M. O. Bie congratulating him on his appointment as Chief of the Danish possessions in Bengal; *Pub. Cons. 7 October 1776, no 10; 2 pp.*

Copy of letter, dated 23 December 1776, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore requesting the supply of 100 chests of opium and copy of letter, dated 12 January 1777, to Fredericksnagore agreeing to comply with the request; *Records obtained from India Office, Proc. 1777; 3 pp.*

Copy of minute of the Governor General, dated 13 January 1777, stating that the Danes should not be allowed the same commercial advantages as the Company; *Records obtained from India Office, Proc. 1777; 20 pp.*

Letter, dated 29 November 1777, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore requesting that their share of saltpetre may be delivered to them early in the season; *Pub. Cons. 1 December 1777, no 15; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 15 December 1777, to the Danish Council at Fredericksnagore, refusing their application for the supply of their share of saltpetre a year in advance; *Pub. Cons. 15 December 1777, no 11; 2 pp.*

Letter from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore asking for their annual share of saltpetre together with the quantity of the last year; *Pub. Cons. 18 February 1779, no 5; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 6 March 1779, from Mr J. L. Fix, Chief of

Fredericksnagore, repeating their request for saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 8 March 1779, no 5; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 25 March 1779, from M. O. Bie informing the Board that His Danish Majesty has taken the Danish East India Company's territorial possessions under his immediate control and that he has been appointed Chief of the Danish possessions in Bengal; *Pub. Cons. 19 April 1779, no 19; 3 pp.*

Letter, dated 26 August 1779, from the Governor and Council of Tranquebar congratulating the Board on the appointment of Sir Eyre Coote as a Member of Council and as Commander-in-Chief in India; *Pub. Cons. 16 September 1779, no 11; 1 p.*

Translation of letter, dated 24 May 1779, from the Governor and Council of Tranquebar, intimating that they have taken possession, in the name of their Sovereign, of all the Danish Royal Company's Settlements in India; *Pub. Cons. 29 September 1779, no 27; 1 p.*

Draft of letter of congratulations, dated 29 May 1779, to the Governor and Council of Tranquebar; *Pub. Cons. 29 September 1779, no 28; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 11 March 1780, from the Danish Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, intimating that they are no longer acting as Chief and Council of the Danish Company but as Chief and Council on the part of His Danish Majesty and draft of Board's letter, dated 27 March 1780, congratulating the Danish Chief and Council; *Pub. Cons. 27 March 1780, nos 32-33; 2 pp.*

Translation of letter, dated 20 March 1780, from Mr. Ketting, at Fort Dansbourg (Tranquebar) requesting the Board's mediation in regard to a request which the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore intend to make to the *Zamindars* near that place for permission to cut a canal; *Pub. Cons. 1 May 1780, no 3; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 1 May 1780, to the Danish Governor General and Council of Tranquebar intimating that they will comply with the above request; *Pub. Cons. 1 May 1780, no 4; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 2 June 1780, from the Governor and Council of Fredericksnagore charging the *Faujdar* of Hooghly with having imprisoned their *Vakil* and requesting the Board to assist them in getting redress; *Pub. Cons. 19 June 1780, no 6; 4 pp.*

Letter, dated 12 August 1780, from the Chief and Council of Fredericksnagore requesting the Board to issue orders for the delivery of the usual quantity of saltpetre to their agent at Patna; *Pub. Cons. 21 August 1780, no 4; 1 p.*

Draft of letter, dated 21 August 1780, to the Board of Trade, desiring them to comply with the above request of the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore ; *Pub. Cons. 21 August 1780, no 5 ; 1 p.*

Draft of Board's reply, dated 21 August 1780, to the Chief of Fredericksnagore that the necessary instructions have been issued ; *Pub. Cons. 21 August 1780, no 6 ; 1 p.*

Letter of congratulations, dated 18 December 1780, from the Danish Council at Fredericksnagore on the appointment of Mr Wheeler to the station of first Councillor of the Supreme Council ; *Pub. Cons. 18 January 1781, no 2 ; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 6 July 1781, from the Danish Commercial Agents requesting for the increase of the annual supply of saltpetre to 16,000 maunds and the same proportionate share of opium as is allowed to other foreign companies ; *Pub. Cons. 30 July 1781, no 1 ; 3 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 30 July 1781, to Board of Trade intimating that the supply of saltpetre to the Danes has been increased to 16,000 maunds ; *Pub. Cons. 30 July 1781, no 2 ; 1 p.*

Draft of letter, dated 30 July 1781, to the Chief of Serampore intimating the grant of 16,000 maunds of saltpetre and 400 chests of opium annually ; *Pub. Cons. 30 July 1781, no 3 ; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 6 September 1781, from the Danish Chief at Fredericksnagore requesting the delivery of their share of opium during the current season and draft of letter, dated 13 September 1781, to the Danish Chief complying with his request ; *Pub. Cons. 13 September 1781, nos 6-7 ; 3 pp.*

Letter, dated 30 June 1781, from the Danish Chief and Council at Tranquebar, intimating the appointment of Lieut Col. Restorf as Chief Commander of the Danish troops in India ; *Pub. Cons. 20 September 1781, no 1 ; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 20 September 1781, offering congratulations on the appointment of Lieut. Col. Restorf as the Chief Commander of Danish Troops ; *Pub Cons. 20 September 1781, no 2 ; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 20 October 1781, from the Council at Fredericksnagore congratulating Mr McPherson on being appointed a Member of the Supreme Council and intimating the appointment of new members of the Danish Council and draft of Board's reply, dated 22 October 1781 ; *Pub. Cons. 22 October 1781, nos 1-2 ; 3 pp.*

Letter, dated 10 February 1782, from the Danish Council at Tranquebar requesting the Board's assistance in preserving their

rights of free trade in salt in Bengal; *Pub. Cons. 25 March 1782, no 3; 3 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 25 July 1782, to the Chief of Fredericksnagore requesting him to furnish certain information regarding the export of their share of saltpetre for the current season; *Pub. Cons. 25 July 1782, no 19; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 29 July 1782, from M.O. Bie at Fredericksnagore expressing his inability to give the required information regarding export of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 5 August 1782, no 2; 3 pp.*

Copies of correspondence, dated 12/13 August 1782, between M. O. Bie, the Danish Chief, and Commissioners of Customs regarding enforcement of the embargo on the transport of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 15 August 1782, nos 6-8; 13 pp.*

Letter, dated 26 August 1782, from M. Fix at Fredericksnagore, requesting the issue of necessary orders for the release of saltpetre belonging to the Danish Company stopped at Noia arai; *Pub. Cons. 26 August 1782, no 25; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 31 August 1782, from the Danish Chief of Tranquebar requesting withdrawal of restrictions on the export of saltpetre from their settlements and draft of the Board's reply; *Pub. Cons. 1782; 9 pp.*

Copy of letter, dated 31 August 1782, to the Chief and Council of Fort St. George from the Governor of Tranquebar requesting the withdrawal of the embargo on the export of provisions to that settlement; *Pub. Cons. 1782; 5 pp.*

Letter, dated 2 September 1782, from M. O. Bie, requesting to be allowed to export saltpetre without restriction; *Pub. Cons. 23 September 1782, no 27; 4 pp.*

Copy of letter, dated 5 September 1782, from E. Wheeler to M. O. Bie proposing to limit the export of saltpetre from their settlements to 16,000 maunds for the season; *Pub. Cons. 23 September 1782, no 28; 10 pp.*

Letter, dated 11 September 1782, from M. O. Bie to E. Wheeler urging reconsideration of the matter; *Pub. Cons. 23 September 1782, no 29; 8 pp.*

Copy of letter, dated 13 September 1782, from E. Wheeler to M. O. Bie in explanation of the restrictive orders; *Pub. Cons. 23 September 1782, no 30; 6 pp.*

Letter, dated 17 September 1782, from M. O. Bie to E. Wheeler seeking exemption from the embargo on the export of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 23 September 1782, no 31; 3 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 23 September 1782, to M. O. Bie regarding the embargo on export of saltpetre from that settlement; *Pub. Cons. 23 September 1782, no 32; 4 pp.*

Letter, dated 3 October 1782; from M. O. Bie requesting the removal of restrictions on the export of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 7 October 1782, no 1; 4 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 7 October 1782, to the Board of Trade directing to forbid the Chief of Patna to exceed the allotted quantity of saltpetre in his deliveries to the agents of the Danish Company; *Pub. Cons. 7 October 1782, no 2; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 12 November 1782, from M. O. Bie, requesting the Board to permit English vessels to carry a supply of rice and draft of reply, dated 15 November 1782, to M. O. Bie, reporting inability to comply with his request; *Pub. Cons. 15 November 1782, nos 11-12; 4 pp.*

Letter, dated 30 November 1782, from the Danish Chief at Fredericksnagore, congratulating the Board on the appointment of Mr Stables as a Member; *Pub. Cons. 19 December 1782, no 1; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 7 December 1782, from Mr Fix protesting against detention of a number of boats by the Collector of Customs at Hooghly; *Pub. Cons. 10 January 1783, nos 9-10; 3 pp.*

Minute of Messrs McPherson and Wheeler and views of the Board of Trade, dated 16 December 1782, on the above; *Pub. Cons. 10 January 1783, nos 11-13; 4 pp.*

Letter, dated 18 March 1782, from the Danish Chief regarding protection of the native servants and *lascars* going out to Europe; *Pub. Cons. 24 March 1783, no 26.*

Letter, dated 9 August 1783, from M. O. Bie, Governor of Fredericksnagore, requesting the discontinuance of the embargo laid upon saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 18 August 1783, no 1A; 1 p.*

Draft of letter, dated 18 August 1783, to M. O. Bie, offering to sell him any quantity of saltpetre he may require; *Pub. Cons. 18 August 1783, no 1 B; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 3 September 1783, from M. O. Bie, Governor of Fredericksnagore, accepting the Board's terms for the purchase of saltpetre; *Pub. Cons. 15 September 1783, no 45 A; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 12 April 1785, from the President and Council of Serampore congratulating Mr John McPherson on his accession to the office of Governor General and Charles Stuart on his promotion to a seat on the Supreme Council; *Pub. Cons. 14 April 1785, no 3; 12 pp.*

Letter, dated 5 April 1785, from the Governor and Council of Tranquebar congratulating Mr John McPherson on his assumption of the office of the Governor General; *Pub. Cons. 2 May 1785, no 1; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 26 July 1785, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, congratulating Lieut-Gen. Sloper on becoming Commander-in-Chief; *Pub. Cons. 24 August 1785, no 1; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 23 February 1787, from the Danish Government congratulating Mr John Shore on his appointment to the Supreme Council; *Pub. Cons. 21 March 1787, no 1; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 12 July 1787, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore enclosing, with their remarks, a translation of a representation from Mr E. Campbell; *Pub. Cons. 23 July 1787, no 4; 1 p.*

Translation of a letter, from Mr E. Campbell, to the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, pointing out how the order prohibiting the Englishmen from selling their ships to foreigners has affected him, and requesting permission to purchase another ship to proceed to Europe; *Pub. Cons. 23 July 1787, no 5; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 23 July 1787, to the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, declining to accede to Mr. Campbell's request; *Pub. Cons. 23 July 1787, no 6; 2 pp.*

Copy of letter, dated 20 January 1790, to the Chief of Fredericksnagore, reporting the establishment of a Free School in Calcutta; *Pub. Cons. 20 January 1790, no 29; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated February 1790, from the Chief of Fredericksnagore to the Governor General assuring him that he will be happy to promote the interests of the Free School; *Pub. Cons. 5 February 1790, no 6; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 9 November 1790, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, congratulating Mr Cowper on his appointment to the Supreme Council; *Pub. Cons. 10 November 1790, no 10; 1 p.*

Draft of letter, dated 1 July 1791, to the Chief and Council of Fredericksnagore seeking extradition of Mr T. Cotton from that settlement; *Pub. Cons. 1 July 1791, no 4; 6 pp.*

Letter, dated 5 July 1791, from the Chief and Danish Council at Serampore proposing that Mr. T. Cotton should be tried in their own courts; *Pub. Cons. 6 July 1791, no 12; 2 pp.*

Minute of the Governor General, dated 5 July 1791, regarding the proposed extradition of Mr T. Cotton from Fredericksnagore; *Pub. Cons. 6 July 1791, no 13; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 5 July 1791, to the Chief of Fredericksnagore demanding the extradition of Mr T. Cotton from that settlement; *Pub. Cons. 6 July 1791, no 14 ; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 5 July 1791, from the Chief of Fredericksnagore intimating their resolve to deliver up Mr Cotton to the gentlemen sent by the Board; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 10 ; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 8 July 1791, from Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear to Mr E. Hay, the Secretary of the Board, reporting in details the steps taken by them to secure the release of Mr Cotton; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11 ; 20 pp.*

Copy of letter, dated 2 July 1791, from M. O. Bie, Chief of Fredericksnagore, to Mr Krefting regarding the extradition of Mr T. Cotton; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11 ; 2 pp.*

Copy of letter, dated 4 July 1791, from Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear at Barrackpore to the Chief and Council of Fredericksnagore intimating that they are awaiting the reply to the letter from the Governor General regarding the extradition of Mr T. Cotton; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11 ; 1 p.*

Copy of letter, dated 4 July 1791, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore to Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear, reporting that the orders on the above subject will be given as soon as the letter from the Board is considered; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11 ; 1 p.*

Copy of letter, dated 6 July 1791, from Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear to the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, transmitting a letter from the Board; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11 ; 1 p.*

Copy of letter, dated 6 July 1791, from Mr Krefting at Serampore to Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear intimating that the decision on the subject of Mr Cotton's surrender will be communicated on the morning of 7 July; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11 ; 1 p.*

Copy of letter, dated 7 July 1791, from Messrs Krefting and Obelitz at Serampore to Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear informing that their decision will be shortly communicated to the Board; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11 ; 1 p.*

Copy of letter, dated 7 July 1791, from M. O. Bie, Chief of Fredericksnagore, to Messrs Krefting and Obelitz directing them to deliver Mr T. Cotton to Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11 ; 1 p.*

Copy of letter, dated 8 July 1791, from Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear to the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, stating that they cannot leave the place unless the intention of the Danish Council

regarding the surrender of Mr Cotton is known; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 11; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 13 July 1791, to M. O. Bie, Chief of Fredericksnagore, thanking him personally for the surrender of Mr Cotton to the charge of Messrs Chauvet and Shakespear; *Pub. Cons. 13 July 1791, no 12; 4 pp.*

Letter, dated 9 October 1792, from Superintendent of Police requesting that the Chief of Fredericksnagore may be asked to hand over Mr Jeyron to the police; *Pub. Cons. 12 October 1792, no 20; 1 p.*

Draft of letter, dated 10 October 1792, from the Governor General to M. O. Bie, Chief of Fredericksnagore, requesting that the accused may be handed over to the police; *Pub. Cons. 12 October 1792, no 23; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 12 October 1792, from M. O. Bie to the Governor General intimating that Mr Jeyron has been handed over to the police; *Pub. Cons. 17 October 1792, no 29; 3 pp.*

Letter, dated 25 January 1793, from M. O. Bie, the Danish Chief, congratulating Mr Graham on his promotion as a Member of the Supreme Council; *Pub. Cons. 1 February 1793, no 17; 2 pp.*

Certificate, dated 26 April 1794, granted by M. O. Bie, to Mr F. M. Plentinck stating that he was permitted by the Danish Government to erect stills, etc. for distilling liquor at Copenhagen; *Pub. Cons. 2 June 1794, no 42; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 6 September 1796, from M. O. Bie, Chief of Fredericksnagore, to the Governor of Fort William, asking for help to serve summons on Capt. Massen of the *Princess Frederina*; *Pub. Cons. 16 September 1796, no 15; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 30 January 1797, to the Governors-in-Council of Tranquebar and Serampore, intimating that Mr Speke has been nominated as Vice-President and Deputy Governor of Fort William; *Pub. Cons. 30 January 1797, no 4; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 6 February 1797, from the Chief and Council of Fredericksnagore, intimating that M. O. Bie has gone to Europe and that Mr J. Krefting is acting for him; *Pub. Cons. 13 February 1797, no 3; 1 p.*

Draft of letter, dated 24 November 1797, to the Governor-in-Council of Tranquebar and the Chief and Council of Fredericksnagore intimating the nomination of Mr P. Speke as Vice-President and Deputy Governor of Fort William; *Pub. Cons. 24 November 1797; 1 p.*

Copy of certificate, dated 18 November 1797, granted by Major-General P. Anker, Governor of His Danish Majesty's East Indian possessions, stating that Mr Boalth is His Danish Majesty's Notary Public; *Pub. Cons. 20 February 1798, no 20; 7 pp.*

Letter, dated 5 July 1798, from the Governor-in-Council of Tranquebar, congratulating the Earl of Mornington on his assumption of the office of Governor General; *Pub. Cons. 26 July 1798, no 6; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 4 June 1799, from the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, intimating that Lieut. Col. M. O. Bie has been promoted to the rank of Colonel, and that he has been reinstated as Director and Chief of Fredericksnagore; *Pub. Cons. 17 June 1799, no 15; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 17 June 1799, to the Chief and Council at Fredericksnagore, congratulating Col. Bie on his appointment as Director and Chief of Fredericksnagore; *Pub. Cons. 17 June 1799, no 16; 1 p.*

List, dated 20 October 1799, of outward bound Danish ships; *Pub. Cons. 14 March 1800, no 17; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 22 July 1804, from the Governor of Fredericksnagore on the subject of a church he is building and stating that the Revd. Mr Brown has informed him that Lord Wellesley will assist in the undertaking; *Pub. Cons. 9 August 1804, no 13; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 30 July 1805, to the Chief of Fredericksnagore informing him of the arrival of Marquis Cornwallis and of his having taken his seat as Governor General; *Pub. Cons. 30 July 1805, no 3; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 31 July 1805, from the Chief of Fredericksnagore congratulating Marquis Cornwallis on his safe arrival; *Pub. Cons. 10 August 1805, no 19; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 14 October 1805, to the Chief of Fredericksnagore notifying Marquis Cornwallis' death and Sir John Barlow's succession; *Pub. Cons. 14 October 1805, no 18; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 19 October 1805, from the Chief of Fredericksnagore stating receipt of the sad news of the death of Marquis Cornwallis; *Pub. Cons. 24 October 1805, no 5; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 19 October 1805, from the Danish Chief congratulating Sir John Barlow on his succession as Governor General and expressing hope of continued friendship; *Pub. Cons. 24 October 1805, no 6; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 18 November 1805, from the Danish Chief and Council requesting permission for Capt. Meyer to export grain from Fredericksnagore to Mocha ; *Pub. Cons. 21 November 1805, no 18 ; 3 pp.*

Draft of Board's reply, dated 21 November 1805, to the above letter refusing permission to Capt. Meyer to export grain ; *Pub. Cons. 2 November 1805, no 19 ; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 4 July 1806, to the Chief of Fredericksnagore notifying the formation of the new Government at Fort William ; *Pub. Cons. 4 July 1806, no 3 ; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 14 July 1806, from the Chief and Council of Fredericksnagore congratulating the new Government of Fort William; *Pub. Cons. 17 July 1806, no 41 ; 2 pp.*

Letter, dated 3 August 1807, from the Danish Chief, congratulating the Governor General on his safe arrival in India and accession to the Government ; *Pub. Cons. 7 August 1807, no 2 ; 2 pp.*

Draft of letter, dated 17 October 1807, to the Chief and Council of Fredericksnagore intimating the succession of Lieut. General Hewett to the office of Commander-in-Chief of Fort William ; *Pub. Cons. 17 October 1807, no 2 ; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 27 December 1807, from the Chief and Council of Fredericksnagore congratulating Lieut. General Hewett on his safe arrival in India ; *Pub. Cons. 30 December 1807, no 1 ; 1 p.*

Letter, dated 28 December 1807, from the Danish Chief and Council congratulating Mr H. T. Colebrook on his succession to a seat in the Supreme Council ; *Pub. Cons. 1 January 1808, no 18 ; 2 pp.* .

COMMUNICATIONS

The Editors will be glad to receive for publication letters and communications dealing with archives, manuscript studies and related subjects. They, however, do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed by their correspondents.

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE HAZARDS—INDIANA PAINTS

NEW varieties of paints and solutions under the patented name Indiana are being advertised by Messrs. Caranji of Calcutta. It is claimed that these are quite effective as protective coatings against fire hazards. When painted on materials of low ignition temperature such as cardboard and wood, these paints provide a shell like hard insulating covering coat, thus preventing the flames from coming in direct contact with the materials and resisting the flow of heat.

In one of the experiments conducted by the National Archives of India to test the flame resistant properties of the above paint, safety base micro-films in metallic containers were placed in two cardboard carton boxes, one of which was painted with a double coat of the above paint. Both the boxes were exposed to flames. The unpainted box caught fire within two to three minutes, while the painted box did not catch fire even after fifteen minutes. After ten to twelve minutes of burning, the outside paint of the painted box swelled and got charred, while the unpainted box was reduced to ashes. The metallic film container inside the unpainted box was thus directly under flames with the result that it blistered, and the film inside it fused to a resinous mass. The metallic container inside the painted box was unaffected, and the film inside it remained in normal condition.

Similar encouraging results on the heat inhibiting properties of these paints have been reported by the West Bengal Fire Services. In one of the tests performed by them a wooden box painted with Indiana paint and containing nitrocellulose film in metallic containers resisted a temperature of 1200°F for 20 minutes. The film inside the container remained at a normal temperature of 75°F during the period it was in fire. In another experiment Jute and Hessian treated with the fire retarding solution were found to stand the ignition test very well.

In addition to its heat resisting properties, the paint covering is also claimed to act as an insect proof coating. It is impenetrable by all those insects, like white ants, silver-fish etc., which feed on wooden and other cellulosic materials.

The covering and sticking qualities of the above paint do not seem to be very satisfactory. The painted surface is not very smooth, cracks develop within 30-40 weeks, and the hard covering tends to come off and the colour of the paint also changes from grey to white. The surface may be repainted after scaling the old paint. This may work well with wooden and other hard surfaces, but in the case of the carton boxes put to test in the National Archives of India, the application of the paint proved risky, as the hard covering coat of the paint, while scaling, showed a tendency of pulling with it fibres of the cardboard structure. The Indiana paint may, however, be effectively used for painting the outside of almirahs and other wooden structures, especially in places where fire-proof installations and modern fire-fighting equipment are inadequate.

RANBIR KISHORE
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NEWS NOTES

INDIA

The National Archives of India

The acute shortage of shelving space has caused a virtual suspension of the accrual of records to the National Archives of India from the different Ministries of the Central Government. The Department is now accepting only such records for custody which belonged to the late Political Department and the defunct Residencies, the transfer of which had started with the abolition of the Office of the Crown Representative. Among the principal accessions during the second half of 1951 were 900 files of the Political Department covering the years 1860-1932 and fresh instalments of papers belonging to the Central India Agency, Western India Kathiawad Agency, Hyderabad Residency and Baroda Residency. Many of these records were received in a confused state and had to be properly arranged before they could be placed on shelves. The National Archives also recently accepted the transfer of 16 boxes of records from the Ministry of Defence Record Room at Calcutta.

The collection of historical manuscripts in Persian has been enriched by the acquisition of two documents of the Mughal period, unearthed by the Delhi Regional Survey Committee. One of them is a *parwana* under the seal of Shah Jahan and dated 30th April, 1634 A.D. and the other a *parwana* of Farrukhsiyar dated 8th August, 1717. The Department has also received for custody 21 Mughal documents from the Regional Records Survey Committee of Uttar Pradesh. They belong to the period from the reign of Shah Jahan to that of Alamgir II, and include one *farman* of Shah Jahan and two of Aurangzeb.

The project of obtaining from abroad microfilm copies of records and historical manuscripts of Indian interest is making steady headway. The microfilms received from the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, include copies of important manuscripts in the *Nouvelle Acquisitions* Series relating to the history of the French in India in the 18th century. The Algemeen Rijksarchief has sent 40 rolls of microfilms of records of the Dutch East India Company relating to their activities in the East during 1646-61. Microphotographs of over 3,000 manuscript pages of papers in English have been furnished by the National Library of Wales. Among them are copies of a number of holograph letters of Sir William Jones belonging to the period 1773-90 ; of letters of Sir John Malcolm to the Marquis of Wellesley dealing mostly with the former's mission to Persia ; and of diplomatic and other papers of Sir Harford Jones Brydges relating to Eastern Affairs during 1787-1810. The last instalment of 11 rolls of micro-

films of documents from the John Rylands Library, Manchester, contain copies of several papers of Indian interest, *viz.*, Pitt's Papers, Melville Papers and family papers of Col. Bagshawe.

In November 1951 the National Archives received from His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 51 rolls of microfilm copies of Parliamentary Papers on Indian and Eastern Affairs for the period 1801-48. This is the first instalment of the micro-copies of the Parliamentary Papers which are being acquired to fill the lacunae in the series available in the Department. A gift of 42 publications and some old maps pertaining to the Portuguese Settlements in India has been received from the Legation of India, Lisbon.

The Research Laboratory of the National Archives of India has been experimenting on the use of cellulose acetate adhesives in place of dextrine paste in repairing documents with tissue paper. It has been found that transparency obtained in such repairs is as good as in the case of chiffoning and is a marked improvement on that obtained with ordinary starch or dextrine paste. The documents repaired by this process do not deteriorate in strength. The Department has also developed a varnish suitable for the preservation of pencil writings, the main constituents of which are cellulose acetate foil and ethylene dichloride. The Laboratory is also carrying on tests to measure the physical strength and chemical qualities of paper and ink with a view to determining their suitability as materials for government records. This work has been undertaken by the Department on the recommendation of the Local Records Sub-Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission made at its meeting held in July 1951.

Short Course in Archive Keeping

The National Archives of India has instituted a short course in archives for training service personnel in the maintenance on scientific lines of record-rooms of the various Central Government agencies as well as the State Governments. The object of this course is to impart instruction in methods of archive-keeping which may be adopted by the record-owners concerned without incurring heavy costs. There will be two training sessions during a year, each of three months' duration, from 2nd January to 31st March and from 1st July to 30th September. The educational qualifications for the trainees have been fixed to suit the convenience of the Government Departments. Those who have attained the Matriculation standard can be admitted, but they must all be deputed by the Departments and Offices of the Central or State Governments where they are employed. The syllabus includes a course of lectures on archival economy, practical training in record administration, and intensive practical work in various processes relating to the preservation and repair of records. The first course begins from 2nd January, 1952.

The Punjab Government Record Office, Simla

The Punjab (I) Government Record Office like many other archival repositories is faced with the acute shortage of space with increasing accumulation of materials placed in its custody The State Government cannot possibly do much to relieve the pressure on the small accommodation available for housing the records because of the impending transfer, within the next few years, of the Record Office along with other Government offices to Chandigarh, the new capital of the State.

During 1950, the Office made considerable progress in the varied aspects of its activities which are recorded in its Report for the year. The transfer of the old government records from the District Record Rooms to the Office is expected to be taken up very shortly. Efforts are being made to acquire privately owned historical manuscripts as outright gifts or on loan on quasi-permanent basis. The cataloguing and press listing of the manuscripts and records in its custody is making a steady headway.

The Office has recently published a monograph on "Lawrences in the Punjab" by Dr. N. M. Khilnani.

Dr. G. L. Chopra, Keeper of the Records, retired in November 1951, after a meritorious service of more than a score of years which included a long period of stewardship of the Record Office of the undivided Punjab. After partition he rendered yeoman service by organizing the new Record Office on scientific lines within a very short period and inspite of the meagre funds available for the purpose. A veteran among India's archivists, Dr. Chopra is one of the few archivists who devoted his life to the cause of the archival science.

Mr. V. S. Suri, sometime Lecturer in History at the Dayal Singh College, Lahore, joined the Punjab Government Record Office in 1948 and is now its Keeper of Records.

The Archives Department of PEPSU, Patiala

The Archives Department of PEPSU was brought into existence with the formation of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union in 1948. It is gratifying to note that within three years of the establishment of the Department, most of the records of the constituent states have been centralized at Patiala. The vernacular records of Kapurthala, however, still remain to be transferred to the Department as adequate space is not available. The accessions to the PEPSU Archives Department number approximately 8,71,000 files, of which a little over 7 lacs belonged to the defunct Patiala State Government. The Archives Department has thrown open to research scholars its contents of the date prior to 1901 and is giving all facilities to them. The Department has started the preparation of lists and catalogues of its holdings. The compilation of a *Handbook* will also be taken up very shortly. It has recently published a volume entitled *Patiala and*

East Punjab States Union: Its Historical Background (PEPSU Archives Publication, No. 1) and will be shortly publishing *A Bibliography of Patiala and East Punjab States.* The Department is also collecting material for a 'Geographical Dictionary of the Union'.

Professor Ganda Singh, formerly of the Khalsa College, Amritsar, is now the Director of Archives, PEPSU Government. A distinguished scholar of Sikh History, he is an old member of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

The Central Record Office, Hyderabad.

The Annual Report of the *Daftar-e-Diwani Mal and Mulki Department* (now named Central Record Office), Hyderabad, for 1948-49 (Fasli year 1358) reveals that the work of the Department was seriously dislocated for a considerable time on account of the shifting of the office from its old premises to Iram Manzil. The present building does not afford ample space for properly housing the records in the custody of the Department. As *jagirs* have ceased to exist in Hyderabad and have been merged with the *Diwani-Ilaqa,* it is expected that the reference work in the *Atiyat* (Grants) and *Mawahir* (Seals and Stamps) sections will be considerably reduced, and the Department will be able to devote greater attention to the preservation, classification and publication of records. Considerable progress has already been made in the preparation of documents for publication, particularly in the Marathi Branch of the Historical Section. Among the recent accessions the most notable is the gift of about 1,000 documents by the Rani Sahiba of Gangakhed. The Department expects to receive deposits of similar family records of other *jagirdars* and *amirs* in the State.

It is gratifying to learn that the Hyderabad Record Office has thrown open all the records in its custody for purposes of *bona fide* research work. *The Rules Regulating the Access of the Public to the Records* which have been framed are based on those in force in the National Archives of India.

Mr. Syed Ali, H.C.S., has succeeded Mr. Nasir-ud-Din Khan as the Director of Archives, Hyderabad Government.

The Orissa State Archives, Bhuvaneswar

The Office of the Orissa State Archives which came into being in 1949 and which was amalgamated with the Research Section of the Education Department on 1st April, 1950, has now been established at Bhuvaneswar, the new capital of the State. Mr. S. C. De has been appointed Curator of the Archives and is now engaged on the organization of the Central Record Office. During 1950-51 the non-current records of the Cuttack Collectorate were transferred to the Archives and it is planned to place in the custody of the Office all non-current records from the various Departments and district

offices of the State. The State Government is also considering the possibility of constructing at Bhuvaneswar a suitable building for housing its old records.

The Curator of Archives is also authorized to inspect the non-current records in the Divisional and District record rooms.

The Records Department, West Bengal

The Government of West Bengal has appointed Mr. Bishnu Pada Sarkar as Keeper of Records in succession to Mr. Sankar Nath Dutt, who retired in December, 1951.

The Indian Historical Records Commission

The Government of India have appointed Dr. S. N. Sen, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi, an Ordinary Member of the Indian Historical Records Commission in the vacancy caused by the death of Prof. C. S. Srinivasachari. Dr. Sen was Secretary of the Commission from 1939 to 1949. Among others who have been recently appointed ordinary members on the nomination of State Governments are: Mr. Syed Ali, Director, Central Record Office, Hyderabad; Dr. M. H. R. Taimuri, Director of Archaeology and Superior, Central Record Office, Bhopal; Mr. B. P. Sarkar, Keeper of Records, Government of West Bengal; Mr. S. C. De, Curator of Archives, Government of Orissa and Mr. V. S. Suri, Keeper of Records, Government of the Punjab. Several distinguished foreign scholars and archivists have been appointed Corresponding Members of the Commission. They include: Prof. Eugenio Casanova, the veteran Italian archivist; M. Charles Samaran, Honorary Director of the Archives of France; M. Charles Braibant, Director of the Archives of France; Prof. Jean Filliozat, Secretary, Société Asiatique, Paris; M. Julien Cain, Director of Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; Dr. D. P. M. Graswinckel, Director of Algemeen Rijksarchief, The Hague; Dr. Maria Jurriaanse, Archivist of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; Mons. C. Tihon, Archivist-General of the Kingdom of Belgium; and Dr. C. H. Philips, Professor of Oriental History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

The Research and Publication Committee, 18th Meeting

The unsatisfactory state of affairs in the record rooms of the Ministries of the Government of India and Offices under their control was the principal subject of discussion at the 18th meeting of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission held on 21st July, 1951 at Delhi. Dr. Tara Chand, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, presided. The Chairman in his preliminary remarks explained that as recommended by the Committee, at its 10th meeting held in March 1947, a questionnaire on the archival assets of the Government of India had

been circulated by the Ministry of Education to all the Ministries of the Central Government and their Attached and Subordinate Offices. The replies received during 1948-50 showed that the full import of the questionnaire had not been understood and that the information supplied was far from satisfactory. The replies, however, showed that the Departments were not provided with scientifically organized record rooms nor were the records kept under the care of trained archivists. The Committee recommended to the Government of India that a conference of Departmental representatives be held as soon as possible with a view to discussing plans for removing defects in the working of the Record Rooms of the Departments. It also recommended that the National Archives should prepare a pamphlet explaining in simple language what steps should be taken for the proper maintenance and preservation of records. By another resolution the Committee recommended the appointment of trained archivists in the Record Rooms of the Ministries and Departments.

The Local Records Sub-Committee

The Local Records Sub-Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission, as reconstituted in 1947, met for the first time on 13th July, 1951. Dr. Tara Chand, Educational Adviser to the Government of India and *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee, presided; the other members present being Dr. S. N. Sen, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, S. Fateh Sing, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Director of Archives, Government of India (*ex-officio* Secretary). The Committee showed great concern over the unsatisfactory way in which records were kept in the various ministries and Departments of the Government of India and the poor quality of paper and ink used in the making of public documents. It recommended that the Government of India should take steps to extend the National Archives of India building so that all records of the Central Government, at least of a date earlier than 1941, could be housed there. The Committee also observed that if the records were to be made available for research, lists of all these documents should be prepared as soon as possible. In order to ensure proper administration of records before their transfer to the National Archives of India the Committee recommended:

(*i*) There should be record rooms attached to each Ministry and the Offices under their control and these should be organised on scientific lines.

(*ii*) Trained personnel, preferably those who have undergone a course of training in archive keeping at the National Archives of India, should be appointed to manage these repositories.

(*iii*) The Government of India should authorize the Director of Archives to inspect the Central Government records in the custody of the various Ministries and their Attached and Subordinate Offices.

The Committee also recommended that the Director of Archives should make proposals to the Government regarding the quality of paper and ink that should be used for the making of government records of permanent importance.

The Government of India has enlarged the membership of the Local Records Sub-Committee to include nominees of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Works Production and Supply, External Affairs, Defence and Finance.

The PEPSU Regional Survey Committee

The Government of Patiala and East Punjab States Union has set up a Regional Survey Committee with the Director of Archives as Chairman and the Professors of History in the various colleges in the Union as members. The newly appointed Committee will work in close co-operation with the District Survey Committees set up earlier by the Government. The Chairman has supplied the members with copies of *proforma* for collecting information about historical documents in private custody. It is hoped that discoveries of valuable manuscripts will be made among the private collections of the notable families of the Union.

The National Library, Calcutta

Since its transfer to the 'Belvedere' the National Library has entered a new phase of its development and is steadily working for the attainment of a status which the national libraries of Western countries enjoy. The Library has received, during 1949-1951, gifts of over one lac volumes, including the valuable collection of about 80,000 volumes of the late Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya donated by his sons. 4,295 volumes of official publications belonging to the defunct Hyderabad Residency and the personal collection of the late Sri Ramdas Sen, an oriental scholar of Murshidabad, consisting of 3,476 volumes, are other notable gifts received by the Library. The personal collection of the late Mr. Hari Nath De, a distinguished scholar of Bengal and sometime Librarian of the Imperial Library, has also been donated to the National Library. The Manuscripts collection of the Library has been enriched by the gift from Sri Tripura Sankar Banerji of Uprahti (Rewa) of 100 Sanskrit MSS. of standard works on various subjects.

To provide the readers with more detailed bibliographical information the A.L.A. Code has been adopted by the Library for cataloguing all publications in European languages. The *Author Catalogue* for the letter 'M' (European Languages) is now in the press. The *Catalogue of Printed Books in Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit Languages*, Vol. I, covering letters A-G, has been published and the printing of the subsequent volumes is in progress. The Library has also undertaken a long-term project of compilation of a bibliography

of basic publications on all aspects of Indian culture. It is being done in sections and the first section on 'Indian Anthropology' has been compiled.

INTERNATIONAL

The International Council on Archives

The first annual meeting of the Executive Board of the International Council on Archives, elected in August 1950, was held in London during 2-5 July, 1951. Present at the meeting were M. Charles Braibant (France), President ; Dr. D. P. M. Graswinckel (Netherlands), Vice-President ; M. Guy Duboscq (France), Treasurer ; Dr. Lester K. Born (U.S.A.), Secretary General ; Sir Hilary Jenkinson (United Kingdom), M. Gustave Vaucher (Switzerland), and Dr. Hector Garcia Chuecos (Venezuela), Members.

Among the matters discussed were: (1) the protection of monuments, works of art, and archives in times of war ; (2) the establishment of Committees on Microphotography ; (3) the preparation of a new edition of *Guide International des Archives* to include also non-European countries and compilation of bibliographic studies which had been recommended by the First International Congress of Archivists in 1950 ; (4) the appointment of the International Council on Archives as the official consultative body upon archives to UNESCO and (5) the publication of the *Archivum*, the international review of archives, to be published by the Council. M. André Artonne, Honorary Librarian of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Editor of the review and the Advisory Board of Editors consists of Sir Hilary Jenkinson, Dr. Graswinckel and Dr. Born. Presses Universitaires de France (108, Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris 6e) have been entrusted with the publication of the journal. The first issue of the *Archivum* will be largely taken up with an account of the International Congress of Archivists held in Paris in August 1950.

The next meeting of the Executive Board of the Council will be held on 9-11 April, 1952 in Washington D.C. and the Second International Congress on Archives is due at The Hague in 1953.

The International Federation of Documentation, 18th Conference, 15-21 September, 1951

The 18th Conference of the International Federation for Documentation (FID) held in Rome, on 15-21 September 1951, was a representative gathering of those interested in improving documentation services in both national and international spheres. The papers contributed by distinguished documentalists and librarians from different countries reflected the latest trends in the field of documentation. The application of Universal Decimal Classification figured

prominently in the discussions of the Conference and the following resolutions were passed on the subject:

> There should be one (and only one) authority for Universal Decimal Classification in each country; preferably the national affiliate of FID; if not, then the national standardizing body; otherwise, some interested group or individual.
>
> Suitable multi-lingual editions of Universal Decimal Classification should be published in the first instance using national abridged editions based on the standard Dutch abridgement.
>
> Sub-Committees should be established or re-established on Universal Decimal Classification notation and similar problems, and for developing Universal Decimal Classification in public administration and welfare, classification of materials, fire fighting, agriculture, chemistry and chemical technology, and mechanical engineering.

Regarding the standardization of microfilm and microfilming equipment, the Conference recommended that pending the adoption of standards by the International Standards Organization, strip-film should be limited in length to 23 cm., and roll film should be conveniently divisible into strips of this length. It was also resolved that the Council of the International Federation for Documentation should submit to UNESCO a plan for study and research in format and dimension of microcopies with a view to standardization and to the improvement of reading apparatus. Further survey and experiments should be conducted through FID regarding the use of microcopies, further development of apparatus, if necessary, and advice to users as to other technical methods. The Conference recommended the use of the following terms: micro-copy, microfilm, micro-fiche and micro-card.

The FID, in another resolution, called upon the International Standards Organization to draft standards for bibliographic citation including (*a*) simple standard for citation and (*b*) a more elaborate standard for bibliographic work. It was of opinion that International Standards Organization should also consider the standardization of abstracts, including in particular their format and bibliographic presentation. Another recommendation related to the taking up of a general study of classification systems in use with a view to co-ordination.

As regards the training of documentalists, the Conference felt that there should be separate schools for librarians and documentalists wherever the need was felt, and that regional schools should be designated to serve particular geographic areas. FID should invite its member nations to take steps to recognize documentation as a profession and to make preparation for an international agreement on its exercise.

The Conference called upon academic institutions to publish and exchange theses and recommended that scholarly productions, when not published, should be listed in appropriate analytical bibliographies, with the location of the manuscript designated.

Mr. Arne Moller of Denmark has been elected President of the Federation and its 1952 meeting will be held in Copenhagen.

The United Nations Library, New York

The United Nations Headquarters Library has been shifted from Lake Success to its permanent site at 42nd Street and First Avenue, New York. The report for the year 1950-51 gives the story of the removal, acquisitions and the progress in its bibliographical programme (including the completion of 27 volumes of the Check List of United Nations Documents, 1946-1949), and the continuance of United Nations Documents Index. Carl M. Milam who was appointed Director of U. N. Libraries in 1948 retired in the summer of 1950, Edouard Reitman succeeding him as Acting Director.

The Anglo-American Conference of Historians July 9 to 14, 1951

The fifth Anglo-American Conference of Historians met at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, from 9th to 14th July, 1951. This was the first plenary meeting of the Conference since 1936. Among 310 delegates who were registered there were 88 representatives of the American Universities and learned societies and 46 from the Commonwealth countries, besides members from Great Britain. The Conference was the biggest assembly of historians to meet in U.K. for many years.

There were 20 sectional meetings of the Conference dealing with Ancient History, Medieval European, Medieval English, Modern European, Modern English, and Colonial and American History. The general meetings were addressed by Sir Raymond Evershed, Master of the Rolls, by Prof. L. B. Namier and by Sir Frank Stenton, who spoke on 'History and Law', 'Collective Research' and 'The History of Parliament' respectively.

An exhibition of selected historical works, published in Great Britain since the war, was also held at the time the Conference met in London.

An interim Anglo-American Conference of Historians will be held at the Institute of Historical Research from 10th to 12th July, 1952.

CEYLON

The Ceylon Historical Manuscripts Commission

The Ceylon Historical Manuscripts Commission was set up in February 1931 with the following objects:

(1) to inquire into the existence of unpublished manuscripts in the possession of private persons and institutions calculated to throw light on the civil, ecclesiastical, literary or scientific history of

the Island and give advice as to the housing and keeping of valuable papers and the repair of any that may be in a state of decay;

(2) to make recommendations as to the housing and preserving of public records and how to make them easily accessible and readily available in order to facilitate and encourage research; and

(3) to make recommendations regarding the translation and publication of unpublished documents.

The Third Report of the Commission which has been recently published (September 1951) tells in detail how the Commission has been endeavouring to fulfil its objectives. The members of the Commission have ascertained the whereabouts of important materials by personal visits to various areas inspite of the fact that they are busy men with other whole time occupations. The work of the Commission was completely dislocated during the last war because many of the members were engaged on war effort. The Report as it now appears covers mostly the period 1934-38. 22 of its 28 Appendices embody the results of the search made during this period by its members for historical documents in private custody, some of which are of prime importance for the history of the Island. The members of the Commission also examined records in the outstation courts to advise regarding their proper preservation.

Appendix XXV of the Report, covering 58 pages, consists of Calendars of more than 500 documents examined by the Commission. A very interesting note (Appendix XXVIII) by the Assistant Archivist of the Ceylon Government Archives Department, relates to the progress made in the cataloguing of the British Records of Ceylon, of which there are about 11,500 bundles and volumes for the period prior to 1885. These include Minutes of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Despatches to and from the Secretary of State, Correspondence, Indexes, etc. The system of arrangement of records followed in the office is based on the original organization of the Archives.

Professor S. A. Pakeman is the Chairman of the Commission, and Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz, Archivist to the Government of Ceylon, is its Secretary.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Public Record Office, London

The growing administrative activities of the Public Record Office, London, and the consequential delay in the implementation of its editorial schemes are echoed in the *112th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records*, 1950 (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1951) which has just come to us. The volume of public records has enormously increased, and new functions, such as the care of external and intermediate repositories have been added to the respon-

sibilities of the Department; but there has not been a proportionate increase in the staff. The Consultative Committee of Historians called the attention of the Master of the Rolls to this disparity between administrative work and editorial work at its meeting held in December 1950 and recommended the employment of adequate staff for the expeditious execution of editorial and publication work of the Office in the interest of historical studies in the country.

Among the important acquisitions of the Public Record Office during 1950 were the records of the Foreign Office including *Confidential Print* (1942-47) and *Embassy* and *Consular Archives* from twelve countries. Of the latter, largest in bulk were correspondence from Uruguay (1823-1901). The records of the Colonial and Dominion Offices for 1932 and 1933 were also received by the Office. The National Coal Board has transmitted a small collection of *Deeds* (1548-1850), this being the first transfer of their records to the Public Record Office. Some valuable additions have also been made to the *Colchester Papers* and *Balfour Papers* by gifts received during the year.

During 1950 five volumes of record publications of the Office appeared, including *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, Vol. XX; *Calendar of State Papers, Spanish*, Vol. XII; and *Calendar of Treasury Books*, Vol. XXII (Part II), and Vol. XXIV (Part II). The printing of several other volumes has also been completed. The Office has issued in processed form a fresh edition of *Summary of Records* comprising some 366 folio pages. The *Summary*, which was started in 1901, is revised from time to time and is intended to show the latest condition of the records in the repository. In it groups of records have been placed in the alphabetical order of the descriptive titles and it gives the covering dates of each class and the number of papers contained therein. This work furnishes a survey of public records such as does not exist in any other National Archives.

The *Guide to the Public Records* of which Part I appeared in 1949 is to be followed by the publication of a comprehensive *Summary of the Records in the Public Record Office*, probably in four parts.

The Historical Manuscripts Commission— Lincoln's Inn Exhibition

One of the most significant exhibitions held in England during the Festival Year 1951, was that of *Notable Documents from Private Archives* arranged by the Historical Manuscripts Commission in collaboration with the British Records Association. This was the first occasion when some of the most historic and beautiful privately owned documents were assembled in a national exhibition. Its venue was the Old Hall of the Lincoln's Inn in London. The exhibits, numbering 160, were on view from 25th June to 7th July, 1951.

The nucleus of the exhibition was the bulk of papers loaned to the British Records Association by various owners in 1936 and 1937 for display at its annual meetings. All the selected documents came from England, and nothing pertaining to Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland was shown. The choice was also limited to archives which are in private ownership whether of individuals or institutions. The records of the local authorities as well as of the Church were also excluded from the scope of the exhibition. The papers on view concerned a period of over eight centuries; the earliest exhibit was a Deed of the Empress Maud, dated 1142, belonging to the King's College, Cambridge. Among the varied documents were Court Rolls, Accounts, Surveys, Deeds, Wills, Private Correspondence, Diaries, Minute Books, Ledgers, Inventories, Maps and Plans, to name a few. The exhibits were selected partly for their historical importance and partly for their spectacular value. They furnished a clear idea about the richness and variety of documents owned by private individuals as well as institutions. A few items of Indian interest were also displayed, including a *farman* from the titular Mughal Emperor granting to Charles Warre Malet a *mansab* of 6,000 *zat* and 6,000 *sawar*.

A catalogue of the exhibition giving a brief description of the documents displayed and their historical significance was published on the occasion. Sir Hilary Jenkinson, Deputy Keeper of the Public Records of England, contributed to it a valuable Introduction explaining the scope of the exhibition.

The India Office Library, London

In his annual report for the year ending 31st March, 1951, the Librarian of the India Office Library says that the microfilming of the Library's unique or otherwise important oriental manuscripts has made so much progress that the whole project is likely to be completed during the next two or three years. During the year, 361 manuscripts and about 1,400 manuscript fragments were microfilmed on about five thousand feet of 35 mm. film. All manuscripts considered worth copying in the Central Asian (Khotanese, Kuchean, Nam, Sanskrit and Tibetan), Jaina Sanskrit, Malayalam, Marathi, Sinhalese, and Tamil Collections have now been microfilmed. It has been decided to publish in the *Oriental Studies,* issued by the Association of British Orientalists, particulars of all the manuscripts microfilmed by the Library. The Library can supply at moderate rates positive microfilms and also enlarged prints from microfilms, of the manuscripts already microcopied.

The Library expects to publish four Catalogues of its Malayalam and Pali books and of Malayalam and Sinhalese Manuscripts during 1951-52. Section II of the *Catalogue of Sanskrit Books* is in the press and two further sections of this work are planned to be published. *The Guide to the India Office Library,* compiled by the Librarian, is also expected to be issued during 1952.

The British Museum, London—Newspaper Library Microfilm Annexe

Through the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation of New York the British Museum was able to undertake some time ago a project of microfilming its Newspaper Library and to transfer to storage volumes of old newspapers. The Foundation had provided the microfilming equipment including five cameras and several reading machines. To facilitate this work, the Ministry of Works has now provided a microfilm studio on the site of the destroyed wing of the Museum at Colindale. According to the present arrangements, all newspapers (except London newspapers of a date prior to 1800) will continue to be available for study at Colindale; those which have been microfilmed will be consulted on film. It is expected that ultimately accommodation for consultation of microfilm copies of newspapers will be made in the main reading room of the Museum Library at Bloomsbury.

The National Gallery, London

Profiting by their experience of war-time housing of their invaluable collection of paintings the Trustees of the National Gallery, London, have started on a project of air-conditioning the Gallery. It was found that the pictures had remained well preserved for a period of five years during which they were in an air-conditioned slate quarry where a relative humidity of 58 per cent and temperature of 63°F were constantly maintained. When the collection was transferred to London after the end of the War, the pictures began to suffer from blistering, warping and cracking owing to the non-conditioned character of the storage place. The new project, in its experimental stage, envisages the air-conditioning of only one room and, after the necessary experience has been gained, five more rooms will be similarly conditioned. The design of the air-conditioning plant installed for the first room is based on the well-established pattern of the filtration of fresh air, mixed with recirculated air. The air leaving the plant is cleaned by filters, given the required amount of moisture and warmed to the desired degree for the welfare of the pictures as well as the comfort of the visitors. The conditioning apparatus has been designed for automatic regulation and it provides a temperature of 65°F with air at 68 per cent relative humidity throughout the year.

Modern artificial light has also been installed in the same room. It is made up of both fluorescent tube lighting and filament lamps which together produce a natural light of 15-20 ft. candles intensity. Since the room gets filtered air the pictures do not require glass fronts to protect them from dirt. This helps to eliminate the problem of reflections in lighting.

GOLD COAST

Gold Coast Archives

Dr. Freda Wolfson's note on "Historical Records on the Gold Coast" (*Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research,* November 1951) gives an insight into the state of official as well as private archives of the Gold Coast which had hitherto remained neglected, as in many other colonial territories. The Government of the Gold Coast has now set up its Archives Department under an African Archivist who had his training at the Public Record Office, London. The Archivist has begun to collect at Accra, the capital, official records from all over the territory and to sort and classify them. He is also concerned with the preservation of documents. A proposal has been made to the Government for the construction of a suitable building for the safe keeping of records.

Most of the records of the Gold Coast belong to the last quarter of the Nineteenth century, though there are a few papers of earlier dates. Important among them are the following:—(1) despatches which passed between the Governor and the Secretary of State for Colonies beginning from about 1850, but available in full after 1880; (2) local correspondence (from 1875 onwards) between Government officials and individuals and between Government and district offices; and (3) district records in the main towns, the earliest of them being dated 1869. There are also available some private business records which form valuable source material for the history of the Gold Coast.

GERMANY

The Coburg Archives—Queen Victoria Exhibition

A 'Queen Exhibition' was held this year at Coburg to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Queen Victoria and the Centenary of the Great Exhibition which owed so much to the Queen and the Prince Consort. The display was arranged at Ehrenburg, the ducal town residence at Coburg, and among the exhibits were a large number of items from the archives of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at Coburg. Materials had also been collected for the exhibition from public and private collections, above all from Amorbach, the seat of the Dukes of Leiningen and for many years the residence of the Duchess of Kent, the Queen Mother—herself a Coburg princess—and from the descendants of Prince Albert's mentor and adviser, Baron Stockman. The documents from the Coburg archives were all of prime importance, and among them were the marriage contract between Victoria and Albert bearing the signatures and seals of Palmerston, Melbourne and Russell, besides those of the Archbishop of Canterbury and of Stockman, and Victoria's autograph letter

addressed to the Duchess Alexandrina of Coburg, her sister-in-law, written within a week of the Prince Consort's death. At Coburg are preserved about 2,000 letters of the Queen and also the original correspondence between Prince Albert and Duke Ernest II of Coburg in which the Prince Consort gave his brother a full account of his life in England.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The National Archives and Records Service

The National Historical Publications Commission has issued a Preliminary Report entitled *"A National Program for the Publication of the Papers of American Leaders"* (1951, pp. 47). It gives in a summary form what has already been done regarding the publication of the private papers of eminent Americans and outlines a tentative publication programme for the future. The Commission has recommended the editing and publication of papers of 66 notable Americans who made a mark not only in the political field but also in other fields such as industry, labour, science, education, religion, literature and arts. The actual editing work is not, however, to be done by the Publications Commission. It is to be entrusted to other public bodies, private organizations and individual scholars.

The latest acquisitions of the National Archives include a manuscript volume of George Washington's account of expenses as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, 1775-83, and records relating to the Louisiana Purchase, 1803-4, transferred from the Treasury Department.

Department of State—Records Service Centre

The Department of State of the U.S. Government has established a Records Service Centre in Washington D.C. with a capacity to keep 35,000 cubic feet of records. The Centre is provided with a microfilm unit and a reference unit in addition to the staff for processing and storage of records. It has also a study room for the use of government officials as well as private students.

The liberal trend of the U.S. Government's policy regarding the availability of records for research students is reflected in the State Department's Regulation, dated 4th January, 1951. By this the Department's records, prior to 1st January, 1926, have been thrown open to the general public. The terminal date of the open period will be automatically extended by one year. The ten years period immediately following the 'open period' will be regarded as 'limited access period' and the use of the records of this period will be confined to qualified researchers and other persons showing a legitimate need for the information requested. The records of the 'close period'

subsequent to the 'limited access period' are not normally available to non-government researchers.

The Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

The Library of Congress has taken special measures to give lasting protection to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution at the Shrine. A special ceremony in this connection was held on the Constitution Day, 17th September, 1951, when President Truman and the Chief Justice Frederick M. Vinson were present. At the request of the Library the National Bureau of Standards took up some time ago an investigation into the causes of deterioration of the documents and to devise methods for their elimination. It has evolved a process of sealing documents which eliminates all sources of decay and permits the documents to be seen under safe and sufficient illumination. The enclosures in which the documents have been sealed are made of insulating glass with bronze frames. The air, which contains oxygen and impurities that are harmful to parchment and ink, has been expelled, and humidified helium, an inert gas in which moulds and insects cannot live, has been introduced. To offset temperature changes that might increase the controlled amount of humidity inside the enclosures, a special backing paper of pure cellulose has been put behind each parchment to absorb moisture. The new lighting in the shrine which has also been designed by the National Bureau of Standards eliminates about 98 per cent of the blue, violet, and ultra violet light that was found to be very harmful to parchment and ink.

The papers of John Campbell Merriam, a distinguished paleontologist and educationist have been presented to the Library. They fill 237 boxes, and include, in addition to his general correspondence for 1920-38, correspondence connected with his work as Chairman of the National Research Council, President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Regent of the Smithsonion Institution. The American Academy of Arts and Letters has also deposited its valuable collection of manuscripts to make them more accessible to students than they have been before. They mostly contain 19th century manuscripts.

Among the accessions of microfilms are 22 reels of negative microfilm of notarial records in the Archivo de Stato di Genoa. These unpublished notarial cartularies of the 12th and 13th centuries will throw a new light on the legal transactions of that age.

PRESERVATION AND PHOTODUPLICATION

The Preservation of Unstable Paper

An old process for the treatment of unstable paper is the subject of a note by W. H. Langwell in the 1950 *Michaelmas* issue of

Archives, the Journal of the British Records Association. This method of cleaning and strengthening old paper, which has been in use in England for many years, consists in subjecting the paper for about an hour to a warm bath of 1 per cent solution of potassium permanganate, bleaching it in a bath of dilute sulphurous acid, washing it thoroughly in plenty of water, and re-sizing it in a warm gelatine solution. Mr. Langwell thinks that this old process of preserving unstable paper can give, after slight modifications, more certain and reliable results than lamination with cellulose acetate. "The original intention of the permanganate and sulphurous acid baths was to remove stains and discolouration from sound paper but it is now believed that this treatment neutralizes to some extent the chemical instability caused by the unsaturated substances, which occur in paper containing mechanical wood pulp, and heavily sized with rosin-alum size. These substances are not only themselves unstable, but may transmit their instability to other constituents of the paper and even to cellulose acetate used for lamination." The old process, according to Mr. Langwell, can remove to a great extent chemical as well as mechanical instability of paper, gelatine acting both as a chemical and mechanical stabiliser. On the other hand cellulose acetate acts merely as an adhesive and is not so effective as gelatine. The author has also discussed the difficulties regarding the application of this old method and suggests that it can be simplified for "routine" purposes to a simple gelatine bath, leaving the more complicated treatment for very difficult or special cases. Experiments are now being carried out to establish the suitability of this old method of rehabilitating documents and further results are awaited with interest.

Checking of 'Leather Rot'

Jerome S. Rogers, Head of Hides, Tanning Materials, and Leather Division, Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Philadelphia, has announced the discovery of new methods of stopping 'red rot' or acid deterioration common to most book-binding leathers. The experiments carried out in his laboratory have shown that alum-retanned leather is an effective resistent to these deteriorations.

The Contoura Document Copier

A simple and inexpensive device for making copies of documents has been developed by Frederick G. Ludwig, Head of the Photographic Department of the Yale University Library. This new photocopying machine, named "Contoura Document Copier" will go a long way in meeting the requirements of research workers and small libraries which cannot afford to install expensive photographic equipment. The device is truly portable, weighing only 4 lbs., and

fits in a brief case or a table drawer. It can be used anywhere and needs no dark room; exposures can be made under normal artificial light. The *Contoura* can make copies in size upto $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 14''$.

The new device consists of a simple metal box, about 10 inches long, 8 inches wide, and 2 inches deep. One half of the top longitudinally is in the form of a metal mirror. On the lower face of the *Contoura* are two sheets of plastic forming a bag which can be inflated (forming an air cushion) to allow the camera to adjust to the contour of a book. Hence the name "Contoura".

The device works on the principle of the 'reflex' copier and the copying operation is very simple. A sheet of *Contoura* photographic paper is placed over the document or the page of a volume to be copied. The *Contoura* with the plastic bag inflated is placed on the sheet of the paper and is pressed down slightly. An exposure of 10 to 20 seconds is made according to the type of photographic paper used and also to some extent according to the colour of the material to be copied. The processed photograph gives a negative (white on black) copy which can be read by using the reading mirror on the back of the *Contoura.* Direct reading positive prints can also be made by re-photographing with the *Contoura.*

The device which is priced at $39·0 can be had from Messrs. F. G. Ludwig Associates, Woodbridge, Conn., U.S.A.

New Versatile Microfilm Unit

The first all-purpose microfilm machine, Dual Film-a-Record, is announced by Remington Rand Inc. It copies both sides of a document simultaneously, or one side only on 16 mm. or 35 mm. film, photographing upto 500 cheques or 125 feet of paper a minute. It can microfilm across the width of film, documents with printed areas upto $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, copying two sides at once, using 35 mm. film. The machine is equipped with an automatic counter which records the number of documents photographed. A 'color-stat' device permits filming sheets of varying colour with uniform clarity and background density.

New Microfilm Readers

Remington Rand Inc. has also placed in the market a new handy and low cost portable microfilm reader for using both 16mm. and 35 mm. films. The machine along with the carrying case weighs only 17 lbs. and projection can be obtained on desk top or on wall for group reading. It has both 17x and 23x magnifications and can be used without darkening the reading area. Facsimile prints can also be made within a few minutes with this machine.

A new low cost Recordak Film Reader (Model MPE) especially designed for libraries has been announced. It is extremely compact weighing only 50 lbs. and can fit on a desk top. It has a fixed

magnification ratio 19 to 1, especially suitable for reading newspaper pages photographed at reduction ratios of 16 to 1 or 20 to 1.

Diebold's latest contribution to microfilm users is the "Universal Microfilm Viewer (Model 92-02)". This reader has a magnification range from 18x to 36x and the screen size is 14 x 14 inches. The film can be made to move in either direction at speeds ranging from very slow upto 100 feet in 20 seconds. All controls are conveniently located below the screen.

OBITUARY

SIR WILLIAM FOSTER

SIR WILLIAM FOSTER, the foremost authority on early Indo-British history and one of the leading archivists of the present century, died in London on 11 May 1951, at the age of eighty-seven.

He was born on 19 November 1863, the son of the late William Foster of the Inland Revenue Department. After graduating from the University of London, he entered the service of the India Office, in September 1882, as a second class clerk, and served there for forty-five years. He became Assistant Registrar in 1901 and rose to the position of Registrar and Superintendent of Records in 1907. On retirement from the latter post in 1923 he was appointed as Historiographer, a post which was specially created for him. He resigned from the India Office in December, 1927.

Sir William never served outside the Record Department of the India Office, having devoted the best part of his life to the study of its valuable record collections. He worked with industry and zeal and made a unique contribution to the history of the East India Company in its early days and to that of Britain's relations with India and the East in the 17th century. All the Press Lists of the India Office Records were printed during his service with the Department and it was he who compiled the *Guide to the India Office Records 1600-1858* which will remain a model for all repositories undertaking the compilation of a satisfactory handbook to their contents. His work as Editor of *Letters Received by the East India Company* 1615-17 (4 Vols.) and *English Factories in India 1618-1669* (13 Vols.) is well-known to all students of modern Indian history.

The publication of his *Catalogue of the India Office Pictures,* of which five editions were published and his *British Artists in India 1760-1820* earned for him world-wide recognition as the greatest authority on the Indo-British historical paintings, and when the Queen Victoria Memorial Hall was founded in Calcutta, his advice was frequently sought by Lord Curzon and Sir Evan Cotton, in matters connected with the organisation of its exhibition rooms.

Sir William Foster was closely connected with the Hakluyt Society and was its Honorary Secretary from 1893 to 1902 and its President from 1928 to 1945. He edited for it as many as nine volumes on early travels in the East and rendered assistance and advice in a most generous manner for other publication projects. He rendered a great service to the Society by compiling *Hints to Editors,* a modest but invaluable brochure for the use of the Editors of the Society's publications.

Among his other publications which deserve notice, are: *The Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe to the Court of the Great Mughal 1615-19; The Journal of John Jourdain, 1608-17 ; Early Travels in*

India, 1583-1617 ; The East India House ; John Company ; England's Quest of Eastern Trade ; Downing's History of the Indian Wars ; The Travels of Thomas Herbert in Persia, 1627-1639 ; Hamilton's New Account of the East Indies ; The Travels of John Sanderson in the Levant, 1584-1602 ; The Voyages of Captain Best to the East Indies, 1612-14 ; The Voyages of Sir Henry Middleton ; and *The Red Sea in 1700.*

The services of Sir William Foster were recognized by the British Government in a fitting manner. He was made a C.I.E. in 1913 and knighted in 1925. He was a Corresponding Member of the Indian Historical Records Commission since 1930 and took active interest in its work. His death has caused an irreparable loss to historical scholarship in the Commonwealth and to the world of Indology.

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PROFESSOR C. S. SRINIVASACHARI

IT IS with profound regret that we have to record here the death of Professor C. S. Srinivasachari at Madras on 29 August 1951, at the age of sixty-one after a brief illness.

Born in a distinguished family of South Arcot, Prof. Srinivasachari received his early education at the Pachaiyappa High School, Chidambaram. He graduated from Pachaiyappa College, Madras, with distinction. In 1909 he joined the staff of the same College as Lecturer in History, and served there with zeal and devotion for a period of 22 years. In 1931 he was appointed to the Chair of History and Politics in the newly established Annamalai University. On his retirement from there, in 1946, Prof. Srinivasachari became the Principal of Raja Dorai Singam Memorial College, Sivaganga (South India). Later, during 1950-51, he was the Principal of Pachaiyappa College at Conjeevaram which post he relinquished only a few weeks before his death.

In spite of a heavy schedule of teaching work Prof. Srinivasachari was actively engaged in research and writing of historical books. He contributed substantially to the study of modern Indian history and published several works of excellence. Among his noteworthy productions are: (1) *History of Madras,* (2) *History of Gingee,* (3) *Diary of Anandaranga Pillai* and (4) *Vignettes of the Walajahi Dynasty.* He edited Volume IV of *Fort William—India House Correspondence* in 'The Indian Record Series' which will be published by the National Archives of India. He also contributed a large number of articles on various subjects to historical journals and periodicals of India.

Prof. Srinivasachari richly deserved honours from the Government as well as from non-official bodies. He was made Rao Saheb in 1935, Rao Bahadur in 1942 and Dewan Bahadur in 1946. The Indian History Congress elected him its General President in 1941. He was

President of the History Section of the Indian Oriental Conference in 1940. The French India Historical Society of Pondicherry conferred on him the distinction of Honorary Life Membership. He was closely connected with the Indian Historical Records Commission as a Corresponding Member from 1926. In 1942 when the Commission was reconstituted he became one of its five Expert Members. He was the Convener of the Madras Regional Records Survey Committee, and did valuable work in bringing to light several unknown historical manuscripts and documents. The Government of India recently appointed him on the Committee for compilation of the History of the Indian Freedom Movement. He was associated with 'The Journal of Indian History' for a long time, and was a member of its Editorial Board since 1931. In 1950, on the occasion of his 61st birthday, he was presented with a Commemoration Volume by his students, co-workers and other admirers. Many Universities in India also honoured the late Professor by inviting him to deliver special lectures under their auspices.

Professor Srinivasachari was a truly amiable man and he possessed in abundance the rare gift of humility. Wherever he went he made lasting friendships; and students and colleagues held him in high esteem, and will remember with gratitude his unselfish devotion, friendliness and helpfulness. His untimely death has dealt a severe blow to historical scholarship in India and has left a void in the educational field which it will be difficult to fill for a long time.

BOOK REVIEWS

A Guide to the Records in the Corporation of London Record Office and the Guildhall Library Muniment Room by Philip E. Jones and Raymond Smith (London, English Universities Press, Ltd.; pp. VII-203; Price 20sh.)

THE Corporation of London is to be warmly congratulated for arranging for the publication of a comprehensive and authoritative *Guide* to the records preserved in the two repositories of the city—the Corporation's Record Office and the Guildhall Library Muniment Room. The archives of the Corporation extending over a period of nearly a thousand years are regarded, on account of their antiquity and continuity, as the most complete and valuable series of municipal records available today. The historical materials in the Guildhall Library, consisting of records and papers other than those of the Corporation but arising within the city, have long been known to be a rich mine of information on the city's colourful past and the life of the people inhabiting it during the middle ages and the modern times. The publication of the *Guide* will go a long way in fulfilling the needs of the research students.

The book, as the title indicates, consists of two parts relating to the two repositories whose functions since 1948 have been clearly demarcated by the Library Committee of the Corporation. The archives in the Record Office are confined to documents relating to the administrative, legal and financial activities of the Corporation only. These records are essentially "a natural accumulation" resulting from its manifold activities. The first hundred pages of the book are devoted to the listing of these documents, according to their provenance. The series of the City's Charters and Letters Patent begin with the famous Charter of William the Conqueror and the minutes of the administrative assemblies commence in 1275. Among the legal records the Husting deeds and wills and plea rolls are available from 1252. The rolls and files of the Mayor's and Sheriff's Courts also begin from the thirteenth century. The financial records have survived from the seventeenth century. Among these archives are also to be found some valuable custumals of the city, of the 13th and 14th century, prepared by the Town Clerk, to serve as books of precedents for their successors. These illumine every aspect of medieval history of the city. The entire collection described in the *Guide* is not merely of local interest, but forms rich source material for the study of political, social, economic, ecclesiastical and legal history of the English people.

The Corporation of London realizing the importance of private and business archives of individuals and bodies, have made adequate arrangement for safe deposit in the Guildhall Library of those papers which are relevant to the City's history. It serves as the County Record Office for the City and since 1931 it is an approved repository

for manorial records. The second half of the *Guide* contains a survey of the main classes of these papers acquired by gift or purchase or deposited on loan. The treatment of the more important groups—parochial records, wards records and records of city companies—is more detailed than that of papers of lesser historical value. It is interesting to learn that several of these records have come down in unbroken series from medieval times and are complementary to the official archives available in the Record Office. Among the records of business and trading companies are a few items of Indian interest. Apart from bills and receipts pertaining to the East India Company's commercial transactions there are some important letters of Jonathan Duncan the Elder, recently acquired by the Library among the papers of John Michie, a Director of the Company. The records of societies and clubs and diaries and correspondence of individuals also afford valuable material for the study of social history.

The listing of the records has been very ably done and the publication offers a norm for preparation of similar basic reference tools. The aim of the authors to produce a guide to sources and not a catalogue has been fully realized. The short introductions, preceding lists in each section, survey the main functions or scope of each department or institution the records of which are listed. The description of archives in the Record Office follow the arrangement of the recently published *Origin, Constitution, Powers and Duties of the Corporation of London* and this is of much use in understanding the nature of different series of records in relation to the agencies which created them.

The *Guide* is provided with a useful index which will enable the research workers to find with ease the items in which they are interested.

V. C. JOSHI

Annual Report on the National Archives and Records Service from the Annual Report of the Administrator of General Services for the year ending June 30, 1950 (Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1951, pp. 51-74).

THE National Archives and Records Service which became a part of the newly created General Services Administration in 1949, as a result of Hoover Commission's recommendations, have issued their first annual report—a dispassionate appraisal of work done during the year.

The need for more vigorous and efficient system of records management in the Federal Government was recognised for some time and in 1943 various agencies inaugurated their own programmes differing in scope and extent. But it was the *Hoover Task Force Report* which gave the necessary impetus and strong leadership and has tried to canalise the hesitant and unco-ordinated individual efforts into uniform and scientific lines, by creating a Records Manage-

ment Division separate from the National Archives but within a single organizational entity now called the National Archives and Records Service. In order to emphasize on the reduction of bulk of records a manual on the *Disposition of Federal Records* was published and the question of disposing of originals after they had been microfilmed was also seriously considered. The authorities very clearly realise that to reduce the bulk, one must strike at the very root and control records at their creation. To bring about economy in space and personnel they recommend that of the hundreds of record centres and "substantial accumulations" brought into existence by Federal agencies to cope with current records, they should be amalgamated into about a dozen centres.

It would not be possible to judge and evaluate all the achievements of the General Services Administration as detailed in its first *Annual Report* in this short review but it seems safe to conjecture that there is every prospect of GSA bringing order and discipline in the management of Federal Records, improving their quality as well as curtailing their bulk and assuring the preservation of those documents that are of enduring value.

Emphasis on the role of Records Management Division should not, however, obscure the fact that the National Archives has onerous functions to perform. Apart from appraisal and disposal of records, the National Archives is responsible for accessioning, preserving and making available for the use of Government and people the non-current records of the various federal agencies. The holdings at the end of the fiscal year amounted to 908,852 cubic feet of records showing an increase of only about 26,000 cubic feet over last year's total due to re-evaluation and application of rigid standards of selection. In addition to this, there were varied accruals of microfilm, cartographic and audio visual records.

The preparation of reference media was given a great fillip as is evident from the publication of a number of volumes during the year. An unprecedented undertaking in records description was the production in two volumes of 1800 page, guide—*Federal Records of World War II. Preliminary Inventories of the Records of the United States Senate* and revised edition of *Your Government's Records in the National Archives* were also issued during the period under review.

While it is difficult even to mention here items of importance from the appendix on Franklin D. Roosevelt Library furnished at the end of the publication, the significance and importance of opening 85% of the late President's papers for 1910-45, cannot be exaggerated.

The all comprehensive nature of the *Report* indeed leaves nothing to be desired and that unusual power of adaptability of the National Archives and Records Service to changing facets of organizational set up is indeed worth admiring. Any one perusing this report would not help but be struck by this fact.

DHANWANTI G. KESWANI

Directory of Microfilm and Photocopying Services: Prepared by the International Federation for Documentation under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. FID Publication No. 244 (The Hague, 1950; pp. 65.)

THE recent advances in the field of documentary reproduction techniques have made a significant contribution to international co-operation in the academic sphere. The publication of this *Directory* will be of great help to libraries, learned institutions and individual scholars who are in need of microfilms or photo-copies of books and manuscripts from foreign repositories. The FID and UNESCO have rendered a signal service to the world of scholarship for making available in a handy form information about reproduction services which is hardly possible to get elsewhere.

A casual perusal of the booklet clearly shows the divergences in the application of technical reproduction processes in different countries. It is only in a few countries like the United States of America that such services are highly developed; in many countries, particularly in Asia, they are in their most rudimentary stage, if they exist at all. The compilers hope that the publication of the *Directory* will help wider use of documentary reproduction in the future.

The publication under review contains lists of important reference institutions and reproduction services in 84 countries, arranged according to the geographical scheme of the Universal Decimal Classification. An alphabetical index to countries is also provided at the end of the booklet to help reference to the guide. In countries where there are no reproduction services the list contains the addresses of one or two reference institutions—an important library or archives—who are likely to help in procurement of copies of books and manuscripts available in a particular country.

The *Directory* includes commercial as well as non-commercial services. The information available about the former services may not be completely reliable in some cases. A firm of New Delhi which finds a prominent place in the publication is hardly known even to those who are actively engaged in documentary reproduction in this city. The prices given are those in effect in 1949. They can surely serve as a guide regarding the level of rates charged by reproduction services.

As this is a preliminary edition, the compilers have invited comments and criticism, particularly in regard to the services omitted or the inaccuracies in the information given, so that they may be able to issue a supplement to it. Though far from complete in its present shape, it will help very much the promotion of research work.

V. C. JOSHI

Selected Documents of Shah Jahan's Reign (Hyderabad-Deccan, Daftar-i-Diwani, 1950; pp. xi + 260.)

Selected Documents of Shah Jahan's Reign is a welcome addition to the source materials on the Mughal period of Indian History. It includes original Mughal official documents of various kinds concerning the reign of Shah Jahan in Persian text followed by an English precis of each document. Those who have had to study such official documents in the original will bear testimony to the great pains the editor has taken in deciphering the documents and converting the figures in them into intelligible Arabic digits. The readers of the volume itself would be able to appreciate the labour involved in preparing the book for the press by comparing some of the facsimiles of the documents in the volume with the text as printed. Dr. Yusuf Husain Khan has earned the gratitude of all students of Mughal History by selecting the documents and editing the book for publication.

In a selection dealing with official records of the type dealt with here, it would have been better if a table of contents to the documents had been provided. The English Index is not of much help to the students who may like to make use of the publication. It is hoped that in subsequent volumes a descriptive table of contents of the documents will be added to make search for them a little easier. The English precis should be altogether dropped or replaced by a full translation of the substantive part of the documents leaving out the lengthy titles. The reviewer found the precis misleading in several places. Elsewhere the translation appeared to be only tentative. As it is, the volume cannot be safely used by those who cannot understand the Persian text. It is not necessary that it should seek to do so. If the English notes are omitted, it would also be possible to expedite the publication of other documents in the series.

No student of Mughal institutions can afford to miss this valuable work. We congratulate the Government of Hyderabad for sponsoring such a series and hope that it will bring out speedily the subsequent volumes.

SRI RAM SHARMA

Fort William—India House Correspondence, Public Series, Vol. V, 1767-1769, edited by Narendra Krishna Sinha. The Indian Records Series (Delhi, The Manager of Publications, 1949; Pp. 33 + 670; Price Rs. 25/-).

IT was nearly ten years ago that the Imperial Record Department planned the publication of early correspondence between the Directors of the East India Company and their servants at Fort William. Volume V, the first to be issued in the series, covers a period of three years from 1767 to 1769. It is the story of the admi-

nistration of Verelst who succeeded Clive in January 1767 and from whom Cartier took over in December 1769. Verelst has been lucky in finding a historian for the period of his governorship. But many would regard his administration with little enthusiasm. His government and that of his successor Cartier are but connecting links between the two interesting administrations of Clive and Warren Hastings. The reader who would, however, take the trouble of going through these documents would find his labour amply rewarded. Here are some of the records which are indispensable for writing an adequate history of the Company's early rule in Bengal.

Dr. Sinha has found it convenient to deal separately in his Introduction with the letters from the Court of Directors and those addressed to the Court. One would read with interest in the letters from the Court the attempts of the Directors to check the extravagance of their servants by regulations, the English East India Company's relations with the rival European Companies, the scarcity of silver and the Court's distrust of "blackwriters" employed in the Company's offices. Dr. Sinha has also pointed out the absence of cultural contact between the Indians and the early Britishers. Most of the Company's servants "had no cultural pretensions" and the section of the Indian community with which they came in contact did not represent "the cultural element of the population".

The letters written by the Company's servants to the Court of Directors mention experiments made by them in currency reforms, the disagreements between the Select Committee and the Council, the Company's policy towards Shah Alam and the Nawab Wazir of Oudh and the rumours of the invasion of Ahmad Shah Abdali. There are some interesting references to the activities of Muhammad Reza Khan which partly explain his dismissal on the arrival of Warren Hastings. Inspite of the indignant protests of the senior servants of the Company, the Directors believed that some of the measures adopted by Reza Khan were not strictly legal and that he was but a "pliant tool" in the hands of their servants. There are also letters containing references to the King of Pegu, Shah Alam's correspondence with King George III and the Emperor's proposed march to Delhi. There is one that gives a particularly interesting account of the different political powers in Hindusthan.

From this somewhat scrappy description of the contents one would have an idea of the usefulness of this volume. The documents in this series primarily deal with matters of administration and trade but they contain valuable material for writing a political history as well. The value of this publication is further enhanced by notes, bibliography, Index and several well chosen illustrations. There is however one little blemish which could have been avoided. The reference in the Introduction (page 33) to a letter dated 25 April 1769 is obviously wrong. There is no such letter in the volume; and the Editor had evidently intended to refer to famine conditions in the letter to the Court dated 25 September 1769.

While projecting these volumes it had been the intention to print all documents in extenso. It is a difficult question to answer whether some of these documents might not have been published only in parts. It would have helped to produce handier volumes leaving out unnecessary matter. But though the temptation to produce smaller volumes may be great, yet the danger of such a procedure is obvious. One would have to be a very courageous person to be able to pronounce what matter should be considered absolutely unnecessary for historical purpose. One defect that naturally follows from chronological arrangement of documents is that few subjects could be disposed of in two or three years and the same topics might occur in the introductions of different volumes. The problem of the "black writers", for instance, continued to worry the Directors till the end of the century. It is such consideration that has prompted Dr. Sinha to leave out the full story of the dispute between the Select Committee and the Council and comment that it should find a place in volume VI. Such difficulties could only be removed if it were possible for the General Editor to receive all the introductions simultaneously, a condition which is difficult to imagine.

P. C. GUPTA

Early Printing in the Mascarene Islands, 1767-1810, by A. Toussaint (London, University of London Press, Ltd., [1951], pp. 165).

The introduction of printing in the East was mainly the result of European expansion in the Modern Age. In many of the colonial countries the early presses were established by Christian missionaries—Catholic as well as Protestant—but in the Mascarene Islands printing began as a purely lay enterprize. The varied and rich output of their presses entitle them to an important place in the history of printing outside Europe.

Dr. Toussaint's work, which was originally prepared as a dissertation for the Ph.D. degree of the University of London, contains an exhaustive account of the establishment of presses and their activities in the Mascarene Islands under French rule before their occupation by the British in 1810. The subject has been treated by him from both the historical and the bibliographical standpoints. The author has made full use of all the original materials available in the local Archives of Mauritius at Port Louis, Archives of Réunion, Public Record Office (London), Archives of the Ministry of Colonies of France, the British Museum and the Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris) and in other public libraries and in private hands.

As Isle de France (Mauritius) is the most important island in the archipelago from the historical point of view, the history of its presses and their work has been studied in full detail in the publication under review. The first press in Mauritius was established imme-

diately after the French Government took possession of the territory in 1767. During the revolutionary period a new press was set up and the two plants continued to work actively until the British occupied the island. The author has described in detail their multifarious productions such as almanacs, newspapers, official publications, books and pamphlets representative of every branch of intellectual activity: scientific, literary, religious and political.

In the Island of Bourbon (Réunion), a press was established in 1792 at Saint Denis mainly for the purpose of giving publicity to the acts of the Colonial Assembly. Printing has not so far been introduced into Rodrigues, the third island of the Mascarene group.

The monograph, apart from being an excellent appraisal of the activities of these presses, contains a very good survey of the early history of colonial printing. This helps the reader to draw a comparison between the conditions in Mascarene Islands and other colonies where printing was introduced at about the same time. Another remarkable feature of the publication is an exhaustive and systematic bibliography which is wider in scope than the theme of the book and contains titles of practically all the published materials on the early history of printing in the colonial territories. The value of the publication is much enhanced by the inclusion of several interesting illustrations, fifteen useful appendices and an index.

Dr. Toussaint has made an admirable contribution to the history of printing in the East and his pioneering work is bound to stimulate scientific study of this fascinating subject in other countries of Asia and Africa.

V. C. Joshi